Dudley
CHRONICLE
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PUB SUPPORTERS WILL FIGHT ON

by David Cosgrove & Richard Guttridge

MORRISONS has been given the go-ahead to turn a pub in Sedgley into a supermarket — but campaigners have pledged to resist the move.

The decision comes just weeks after Aldi got the go-ahead to demolish Dudley's landmark King Arthur pub.

Meanwhile, popular locals in Netherton and Halesowen are also facing threats from retailers wanting to open new stores.

Supermarket giant Morrisons look set to replace the Seven Stars pub in Gospel End Road after its appeal was upheld against Dudley Council's original decision to reject the plans.

The move comes despite the fact that the Seven Stars had been granted Asset of Community Value (ACV) status by the council, which is supposed to afford the pub more protection by paving the way for community pub purchases.

Sedgley's Councillor Bill Etheridge has hit out at the planning inspector's decision to overturn the local authority decision, saying it was a 'dark day for democracy'.

Councillor Paul Brothwood insisted the community would not give up. He said: "Fortunately Morrisons didn't appeal to overturn the Asset of Community Value. Thank goodness we got the protection when we did. The status is still in place but it is only for three years, so may only slow the process down. The fight will continue without a doubt."

Landlord

The pub's supporters have campaigned to protect the Seven Stars since Morrisons revealed plans last October to take over the site.

Meanwhile, proposals submitted to Dudley Council for The Crown in Netherton earmarked part of it's car park for a Co-operative store, which the pub landlord fears will destroy his business.

The plans for the 356sqm store have been put forward by Peter Brett Associates on behalf of New River Retail, which have bought many former Marston's pubs in the Black Country.

Landlord Robin Wall, who took on the pub four months ago, said the loss of parking space would hit business, as would the new store if it sold alcohol.

In Halesowen campaigners are hoping The Maypole pub in Bassnage Road is safe after Dudley Council nominated it for ACV status. More than 500 signed a petition to save the pub after New River Retail announced proposals for a Co-op store.

A campaign also won ACV status for the Haden Cross pub in Cradley Heath.

It was recently confirmed that budget chain Aldi could demolish the derelict King Arthur pub, beside Birmingham New Road, and replace it with a store and 94-space car park, creating 40 jobs.

BACK TO THE 1920S AS TOWN ARCADE RESTORED

Dudley development chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed at the restored Fountain Arcade in Dudley town centre, which has cost nearly £2m

THE wraps have come off Dudley's Fountain Arcade which has been returned to its 1920s heyday as part of a £1.95 million project.

Most of the shopping mall's original art deco features have been restored including previously covered-up leaded fanlights and elegant cream-coloured tiles.

The centre, which stretches from Tower Street to the market place, dates back to 1925.

The project has also included repairs to windows and stonework, as well as reinstating lost architectural features, such as opening up blocked-up windows and installing new shop fronts. Work has also been taking place to renovate the old fire station in Priory Street, which is being transformed into a new bistro-style cafe, looking out onto Stone Street Square.

Also just off Stone Street Square is the recently restored former Albion Pub, now the home of Caffe Grande and Blade Hair & Beauty.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "It is wonderful to see these old buildings brought back into life and to see that this work is enabling new business to start up in the town.

"The work on Fountain Arcade, the former Albion Public House and on Dudley's former fire station has really enhanced Stone Street Square.

"I hope that people will support the new and existing local businesses which have been encouraged to invest in Dudley."

Backed by the Heritage Lottery Fund, restoration work has already seen buildings, including the old Co-Op in High Street, restored in recent years.

MURDER

Body in cellar killer is jailed for 25 years

THE family of murder victim Baljit 'Bill' Singh have spoken of their heartbreak over the death of the 50-year-old father, who was killed on his son's ninth birthday.

Murderer Stuart Millership, who dumped Mr Singh's body in the cellar of the house in Rowley Regis where he was staying, was this week jailed for 25 years.

The court heard that Millership, 33, was a former tenant of Mr Singh's and claimed his former landlord owed him money, though his family say the opposite was more probable.

● Killed for car — see page 18

MOSQUE

Debate starts on controversial plan

MANY people living near the proposed site for the new mosque in Dudley say they don't want it.

Many also say an out-of-court cash settlement offer should be higher, a panel debating the long running saga was told.

Dudley Muslim Association has offered Dudley Council £325,000 to drop court action blocking plans to build the mosque off Hall Street. Arguments for and against accepting the sum were heard by councillors on Monday.

FIRE

Mother and son flee blazing house

A MOTHER and her teenage son were forced to flee their Quarry Bank home after a fire broke out.

Two dogs were rescued by firefighters from the property in Thorn Hill Road after a concerned resident dialled 999 after seeing smoking coming from the semi-detached house.

When fire crews arrived at around 6.15pm on Sunday night, they found the family had been able to escape unharmed.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus extinguished the blaze which had caused extensive damage. An investigation has been launched by the fire service.

INSIDE

IT'S A MUSICAL BLOCKBUSTER

PAGE 25

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CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
CLUBS	8
DANIEL WAINWRIGHT	16
THE FAST TICKET	25
PROPERTY	33
MOTORING	38
SPORT	47 & 48

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Man not guilty of attack with bottle

A MAN accused of attacking a woman in a nightclub with a beer bottle has been found not guilty by a jury.

Ashley Barton became involved in a 'melee' after his failed effort to 'pull' beautician Nicole Hill at Benjamin's nightclub in Halesowen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Trade plate driver Mr Barton had denied one charge of unlawful wounding. Last week a jury took 46 minutes to deliver a not guilty verdict to the charge.

Throughout the trial, the court heard that Mr Barton, aged 28, of Barneswood Close, Halesowen, and a group of friends had been to a pub on November 15, 2013, before they headed to the Birmingham Street nightspot just before midnight.

Around 1am Mr Barton started dancing around Miss Hill, but she made it clear she was not interested in him by swearing at him, he said.

While being questioned by Mr Daniel Oscroft, defending, Mr Barton told the court that Miss Hill flicked him a 'v-sign', then he replied in kind and walked off the dancefloor.

Mr Barton said he was stood near a table with glasses and bottles on when Miss Hill's mum Lorraine aggressively walked over to him with her arms raised.

"We got into a tussle," he said. "It was like a melee. I saw her hands come up so I put my hands over her."

Within seconds the pair had fallen to the floor, taking glass and bottles from a nearby table with them, Mr Barton said.

Injuries sustained by Mrs Hill and Miss Hill – as well as to Mr Barton's neck and shoulder – must have been caused by shattered glass, he said. Miss Hill, from Halesowen, was left with a four-inch gash to the back of her head.

Her mother suffered a gash above the left eye, bruises and a cut to the head.

Mr Barton admitted his behaviour on the night 'wasn't great, but I didn't do anything wrong'.

He said his friend Philip White lied about him 'confessing' to the crimes.

After the verdict, Mr Barton said: "There were no winners in this. I'm just relieved it's all over with."

£4m to pay for urgent repairs at 22 schools

MORE than £4 million will be spent on carrying out urgent repairs at 22 schools across Dudley borough.

The council has allocated a total of £4,420,000 to be invested over the next two years on work including replacing old boilers, upgrading fire alarms and installing new windows.

The biggest beneficiary will be Leasowes High School in Halesowen where a total of £850,000 will be spent on mechanical and electrical work and roofing for the school's main building.

The majority of the cost will be covered by Department for Education (DfE) funding, with schools contributing some of the money themselves.

Other projects to be carried out by 2017 include roofing works at The Wordsley School, near Stourbridge costing £365,000; a replacement boiler at Northfield Primary, Netherton costing £350,000; roofing works costing £200,000 at Dawley Brook Primary, Kingswinford; a replacement boiler at Priory Primary, Dudley costing £200,000 and a replacement boiler at Halesbury School in Halesowen also costing £200,000.

As part of Dudley Council's legal requirement to provide sufficient schools, they must also be kept to an adequate standard.

Impact

Each council-maintained school was asked to submit their top priority. The authority then identified the projects that will have the greatest impact on raising educational standards, while seeking to prevent school closures as a priority.

Other schools set to benefit from repair work in 2015/16 include Gig Mill Primary near Stourbridge; Peters Hill Primary in Brierley Hill; St Margaret's CE Primary in Hasbury; Alder Coppice Primary near Sedgley, Roberts Primary in Lower Gornal; Netherbrook Primary near Cradley Heath and Caslon Primary in Halesowen.

The following year work will be carried out at Church of the Ascension Primary in Wall Heath; The Hillcrest School in Netherton; Dormston School in Sedgley; Lutley Primary in Halesowen; Netherton CE Primary; Howley Grange Primary in Halesowen; Maidensbridge Primary in Wall Heath; Kates Hill Primary in Dudley and Pens Meadow in Wordsley.

Sacrifice not forgotten after 100 years

At the new memorial stone are chairman of Quarry Bank Royal British Legion Colin Scott, Friends of Quarry Bank Park chairman Councillor David Sparks, secretary Mary Sparks, member Vilma Griffin and Royal British Legion volunteer Savannah Hunt, aged 11, of Brierley Hill

A MEMORIAL honouring the sacrifice made by soldiers from the Black Country during the First World War has been officially unveiled.

Quarry Bank Royal British Legion and the Friends of Quarry Bank Park teamed up to have the memorial created to commemorate the 100th anniversary since the outbreak of the First World War. It honours 147 men from the area who lost their lives in the conflict.

Having been made possible thanks to a Dudley Council grant of more than £5,000, the monument has been in place in Stevens Park, in Thorns Road, since the spring but was officially dedicated at a special ceremony attended by members of the Royal British Legion and the Friends group.

The service included prayers and a wreath-laying ceremony as the memorial was dedicated by Rev David Hoskins from Christ Church, Quarry Bank; Father Cecil Rogerson from St Mary's Church, Brierley Hill, and the Rev Mick Ganner.

David Sparks, who is a member of the Friends group and a councillor for Quarry Bank, said the memorial was created to signify the impact the loss of life on what was a much smaller community a century ago.

He said: "Quarry Bank at that time was a few streets and the 147 people came from those streets. The idea came from the community and was financed by the community forum."

Tributes to family man in tragedy at beauty spot

THE devastated family of a man who drowned while trying to retrieve his daughter's ball from a lake has paid tribute to a devoted husband and father of four girls.

Deon Mullings got into difficulty in the water after playing ball games with his daughters on a trip to the Fens Pools nature reserve in Pensnett with his wife Louise on July 19.

When the ball went into the Middle Pool, the father-of-four, aged 35, entered the water to try and retrieve it – but never returned. His terrified wife entered the water but she was unable to find him.

More than half an hour later, Mr Mullings was pulled from the water by rescue divers. Resuscitation attempts were made at the poolside and he was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital, but could not be saved.

His sister-in-law Hayley Walker-Mullings, aged 27, paid tribute, saying: "He was lovely, he was so quiet. He was a devoted father, his life was his wife and kids. He was so family-orientated. It was all about his family."

Dudley Council has said it will launch an investigation following the death as the site is staffed and maintained by the authority.

Mr Mullings was born in Jamaica and had moved to the Black Country around 15 years ago.

The family are planning to return his body to Jamaica and a fundraising page has been set up to make that possible. See www.gofundme.com/zs6xbc4s

Conversion plan sparks concerns

RESIDENTS have raised concerns over plans to convert a Cradley Heath warehouse into new homes.

Krundil Developments has submitted an application to make changes at the building in Pennant Road.

If approved, the warehouse, which was previously used for offices, would be converted into accommodation with 22 rooms available.

Around a dozen neighbours have lodged objections. They say they have not been informed about what sort of accommodation would be offered at the property, while there are also concerns over parking.

Sandwell Council's planning committee is expected to make a decision on the plans in the coming weeks.

Curry night is hot stuff for charities

CURRY lovers can help raise money for charity. The Lime restaurant in Sedgley is hosting a special night with music on September 23 when, for £15 per head, people can enjoy a five-course meal with proceeds to the Mayor of Dudley's charities. Call Sue Randall on 07412 531924.

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Hippodrome — knock it down, says councillor

A DEBATE was held to discuss the future of Dudley landmark, the Hippodrome theatre on Castle Hill.

Dudley Council leader Pete Lowe wants a deadline of September for interested parties to submit proposals for the under-threat site. It comes after Wolverhampton-based entertainment group, Rok pulled out of a £8 million deal to acquire, revamp and run the theatre when agreement could not be reached on sharing use of Dudley Zoo's car park.

At the meeting last week, Conservative councillor Les Jones dismissed moves by campaigners to save the building and run it as a venue again.

He said: "I don't believe for one minute that we can bring in the kind of numbers to make that venue viable. We should do what we were originally do – knock it down, level it."

UKIP councillor Dean Perk, who proposed the council debate, disagreed, saying: "I think we as a council need to exhaust every possible avenue we can."

"The Hippodrome is located in what is a growing part of the town. To drive investment into the town we can give people a reason to come into the town.

"I think to have the Hippodrome there with all the infrastructure there, hotels and Castlegate Park, we have a package for people to attend Dudley for the weekend."

Speaking after the meeting, Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group chairman Gordon Downing said: "It is a shame we could not speak. We will see where we go from here."

You were our hero: tribute to father

A TELECOMS engineer who died after he was hit by a car as he worked at the roadside was a father who had married just a week earlier.

Matthew Harding, a 27-year-old Virgin Media worker from Oldbury, was working on a communications box at the junction of Jack Holden Avenue and Robert Wynd in Coseley with a colleague, when both hit by a Citroen Picasso on Monday, July 20.

His wife Danielle, who was by his side when he died in hospital, made this tribute: "Our worlds have been completely broken. Me and the boys miss you like crazy and love you – you were our hero."

Two 16-year-old boys were arrested on suspicion of dangerous driving and have been released on police bail.

Kinver's a maze in crop formations

A CROP maze has been created at a Kinver farm.

The Maize Maze at Kinver Edge Farm and Shop opened on Saturday and will be open each day from 9.30am to 5pm.

Landmark pub is revamped as sports bar

New pub bosses Daniel and Susan Blower

A PUB in Dudley town centre has reopened after a £600,000 refurbishment, taking on 18 staff.

The Saracen's Head in Stone Street was bought by Amber Taverns earlier this year.

New landlord Daniel Blower, aged 33, decided to take on previously unemployed people from the town to work at the pub

He said: "My wife and I come from Wolverhampton and we just thought if we can get local staff in they will know the customers and be able to chat to them and make the whole place a bit more relaxed. We spoke to the job centre and came to an agreement where they can help with training and we guaranteed interviews.

"The aim and the hope is that the pub will be a nice place to come and have a quiet drink and a chat, while also showing the big sport people want to see."

Screens

Mr Blower and his wife Susan, who used to work at The Billy Wright in Wolverhampton, said the pub will primarily be a sports bar. It has been equipped with several big screens.

It will offer customers cobs and will serve cask ale with beers from local breweries.

Mr Blower said: "The bar is no longer in the centre of the pub. It is on the back wall now and the entire place is open plan. Another big change is that the conservatory has gone and that has been turned into a nice decking and beer garden area.

"We have put 13 TV screens around the pub for showing sports and we have installed a state-of-the-art sound system."

Council are planning to sell off Broadfield House

BROADFIELD House Glass Museum faces closure as part of multi-million pound proposals for a new attraction in the borough.

The move comes around six years after a high profile campaign was fought to keep the Kingswinford venue open.

Plans are in the pipeline to create a £5 million glass museum at Wordsley's White House Glass Cone site, once home to Stuart Crystal.

But now it has emerged officials are considering selling Grade II-listed Georgian building Broadfield House to use the cash to contribute towards the costs of building the new museum.

Broadfield House, bought by Staffordshire County Council in the 1940s and transferred to Dudley in the '60s, was officially opened as a glass museum by Princess Michael of Kent in 1980.

Ward councillors were told in briefing documents that the museum would close by the end of the year, under proposals. Its collections would be mothballed at the closed museum, in Compton Drive, for up to nine months.

But the council refused to be drawn on the closure plan when questioned by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star, saying only that plans had not yet been confirmed.

Discussions

A document from Stuart Connelly, Dudley's head of attractions and amenities, dated July 21, said: "BHGM (Broadfield House Glass Museum) will close later this year to enable the property to be placed on the open market. The proceeds of sale will be used as the council's contribution towards the cost of the new museum project. The intention is that the glass collection will remain at BHGM for a period of six to nine months while it is fully catalogued in readiness for the move to the new museum.

"During this period the collection will not be available to view by the public."

Dudley Council UKIP group leader Paul Brothwood. said: "I think that it is great for Wordsley to have the new museum. But it is very disappointing that Broadfield House would close. More discussions are needed."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, who is in charge of development, said: "The White House Cone, opposite the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, will be a purpose-built museum with better access and facilities. It will tell the story of Stourbridge glass-making as well as house our historic glass collection."

Former Desert Rat Bill Richards, aged 99, from Sedgley, still attends fitness sessions every week at Age UK's activity centre in Brierley Hill

Desert Rat Bill keeps fit aged 99

AT the age of 99 Bill Richards is showing no signs of slowing down.

Each week, without fail, he gets on the ring-and-ride service from his home in Sedgley to attend keep fit sessions at Brierley Hill to make sure he stays in shape.

It would be understandable if Bill wanted to put his feet up but he is having none of it.

He is the oldest client at the Age UK's activity centre at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill, where he has been taking part in fitness sessions for the last 11 years.

He takes part in sit-down exercises, stretches and works with weights.

As someone who served with The Desert Rats during the Second World War, Bill, who will turn 100 next June, has always made sure he keeps himself in shape.

Having lived alone for almost 20 years, twice-married Bill says the weekly workout gives him something to look forward to.

"I've been on my own since 1997 so it gets me out and about. I've made a lot of friends," said Bill.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Less than one per cent of art is seen

JUST 80 of more than 10,000 pieces of artwork owned by Dudley Council are on display, with tens of thousands of pieces of fine art and glassware kept in storage.

Less than one per cent of the 2,000 pieces of art and 8,000 pieces of glassware are on show with 50 items displayed in the Council House and 30 at a permanent gallery devoted to Percy Shakespeare. This means 9,920 pieces of art — 99.2 per cent of the collection — are shut away in stockrooms, according to figures obtained through a Freedom of Information request.

Lucky escape from head-on collision

TWO children avoided serious injury after a head-on crash of two cars in Kingswinford.

An Audi A7 and Peugeot 206 were left badly damaged after the smash on Stalling's Lane on Friday.

The drivers of both cars and the children were checked over by paramedics at the scene but nobody had to be taken to hospital.

Debris was left strewn over the road following the crash which happened at around 1.30pm. The road was closed while the cars were removed.

Housing scheme at factory withdrawn

A QUESTION mark hangs over a derelict factory site at Wollescote after plans to transform the site into homes were withdrawn.

Developers had signalled their intention to demolish the former Billinge Holdings site in Careless Green and build 14 homes.

Detailed plans had been presented to Dudley Council in which agent TDF Design said three and four-bedroom homes would be built on the site of the factory, vacant since 2010.

Youngsters are warned against playing on roof

YOUNGSTERS have been playing on the roof of Netherton Arts Centre, prompting a warning from police.

Neighbourhood officers have been leading a crackdown against ant-social behaviour in the town.

Among the concerns raised by residents has been young people playing on the roof of the arts centre in Northfield Road.

Among other concerns are people begging near the shops in Halesowen Road.

Pedestrian injured

A WOMAN aged in her 60s was taken to hospital after she was hit by a car in Stourbridge.

The accident happened on The Broadway in Norton last week.

She was treated for a fractured leg and head cuts, police said, and was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

FASCINATING to discover that the re-opened war tunnels at Dover were dug out of the cliffs in just 100 days in 1940. Nowadays you wouldn't even get planning permission in 100 days.

TONY Blair, that globe-trotting pillar of integrity and freelance peace-bringer, declares that Labour can win the next General Election, but not if it is led by left-winger Jeremy Corbyn. Blair misses the point. He was always utterly focused on getting elected, winning power and becoming a world figure. Not all Labour Party members share his ambition, for they know it is almost impossible to create a socialist society within a market economy. Some would genuinely prefer a pure Labour Party in opposition rather than a tainted party in power. Corbyn will never be a prime minister but he is a valuable rallying point for thousands of anti-nuke, anti-war, anti-market, anti-Establishment Brits who regard themselves as the nation's Guardian-reading conscience and are happy to exclaim: "Dammit, we've lost another general election, thank God."

AND hasn't Blair gone grey suddenly? Do you think he's seen the Chilcot Report?

THERE was much agonising in the last series of University Challenge (BBC2) about the shortage of female team members. As Jeremy Paxman put it during the closing stages: "Why on earth are there no women left in this stage of the competition?" It is a puzzle. Maybe the women do not push themselves forward during the team-selection process. Maybe they are concentrating on their studies. Maybe they avoid the company of geeks, poseurs and oddballs and have no desire to be Twitter-trolled. Anyway, this week's contest saw just one female team member. She was in the winning Liverpool University team and she spoke precisely one word in the entire 30 minutes – "knuckles," being the common name for a Latin medical term.

FOR some fervent nationalists, part of the joy of getting an independent Scotland is leaving the rest of the UK with a really crummy name. Some suggest RUK, meaning the Remainder of the UK. Others suggest an abbreviation meaning the Former UK (and guess those initials). This week one emailer suggested EWNI, standing for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It ain't going to happen. Even if Scotland, Wales and Ulster all quit, England would remain the United Kingdom of Mercia, Northumbria, Wessex and East Anglia, or UK for short. And our flag would still be the Union Jack. Because it is. Because we like it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Extra jobs as £4.5m invested in firm

A HI-TECH business in Kingswinford is to recruit 20 new staff over the next 12 months after winning a £4.5 million investment from the Business Growth Fund.

The investment in Simworx, a designer and supplier of advanced theme park attractions, will also enable it to buy RoboCoaster, the Warwickshire-based innovator behind some of the most successful rides.

Part of the funding will be used to double the size of the Simworx production plant in Second Avenue and increase its demonstration facilities.

The business will also add to its existing 30 employees by recruiting the new members of staff including designers, engineers and administrative staff.

Established by Terry Monkton and Andrew Roberts in 2005, Simworx created the Angry Birds 4D cinema at Thorpe Park, near London, for Merlin Entertainments.

Simulator

The firm was again chosen by Merlin to develop and deliver one of the main attractions at Shrek's Adventure theme park, which opened in London in July. The ride is based on Simworx's Immersive Tunnel, where guests board a themed motion simulator and are surrounded by a 360 degree, 3D cinema screen and immersed in lighting, sound, smells and weather effects.

Simworx's first Immersive Tunnel ride, The Lost Temple, was delivered to Movie Park Germany in May 2014. Since then the business has secured further orders and has been in talks with theme parks across the world.

More midwives taken on to tackle shortage

by Heather Large

SIXTEEN midwives have been recruited to meet a shortage at Russells Hall Hospital and reduce the need for agency staff.

The hospital said it has a shortage of experienced staff with the number of vacant posts rising to around 19 recently.

A recruitment drive was launched to boost the number of midwives in the maternity unit.

Deputy chief nurse Yvonne O'Connor said the vacancies followed staff leaving for a variety of reasons, including moving to a different area of the country or joining specialist teams.

Ms O'Connor said agency staff has been considered to fill the vacancies in the short-term but there were concerns that they lacked the full range of skills required.

The recruits are due to start in September – although the unit would still be considered short-staffed until they had settled in to the roles, particularly as many were newly-qualified midwives and would need support.

The hospital trust said it would continue to use community and specialist midwives as well as its own staff to cover the shortage.

A report by Ms O'Connor, which went before members of the hospital trust board, said: "Midwifery vacancies have risen to around 19 whole-time equivalents. Realistically staffing shortages are expected until October/November, particularly as a high percentage of the recruited staff will be newly qualified midwives who will require additional support."

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "Following recent interviews, 16 midwives – 13.8 whole time equivalents – were offered positions at the trust. Recruitment to the maternity unit is on-going. We will continue to use the trust's staff bank, as well as community and specialist midwives, to cover short-term vacancies."

The hospital is also recruiting 55 nurses as part of a £3.1 million investment.

MP praises work of dedicated teacher

Waving goodbye – teacher Sue Hanning worked at St Edmund and St John Primary School in Dudley for 43 years

A POPULAR teacher has retired after 43 years teahcing at the same Dudley school. Sue Hanning first started teaching at St Edmund and St John Primary School, in Beechwood Road, at the age of 21.

During her career her pupils have included Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who was among well-wishers at her retirement assembly.

Ms Hanning, aged 64, of Bridgnorth, said: "Part of me is really emotional and sad, as teaching has been a huge part of my life. I have taught many children who now tell me that I taught their parents and even grandparents. Even though I don't live in this area I feel like I've become part of the community and that is something I will genuinely miss."

Mr Austin, who was taught by Sue in the 1970s, gave a speech paying tribute to her work and encouraged pupils to set themselves high ambitions.

He said: "I'm delighted to be able to come back to my old school and pay tribute to Sue's contribution to generations of children in Dudley. I think we should do much more to praise the work of brilliant teachers like Sue who do their best for every child they teach."

She spoke of how she intends researching her family tree and spending more time with family. She said: "During my career I have never really had any time off, and I only had six and a half months maternity leave before returning to school, so I'm looking forward to spending time with my daughter Becky, who is now 29."

Failure to complete work order means jail

A MAN is behind bars after breaching his community order by not turning up to complete an unpaid work order.

John Williams, of Fens Crescent, Brierley Hill, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court after failing to attend his unpaid tasks on both November 13 last year and January 18 this year.

The 22-year-old had completed 60 of the 140 hours of unpaid work required, but had 11 failures to attend on his record and had attended only 10 of the 31 appointments given to him by probation. An extra 20 hours' unpaid work had already been added to his order for non-compliance.

The order was part of his sentence for criminal damage, after a 'drunk and aggressive' Williams had smashed three windows and a door at the Kingfisher Country Club, in Kidderminster Road, Kingswinford, on January 11 last year.

Mr Harpreet Sandhu, defending, said Williams had been working seven days at week at the time of the breaches but had completed 60.45 of the required hours.

Williams had been told at an appearance at Wolverhampton Crown Court in May that if he failed to comply with the order again he would go to prison.

Recorder Barry Berlin said: "You were given several chances and you failed to comply. There is no excuse for it."

Williams was sent to prison for six weeks.

£1.8m modern pet hospital opening

DOORS have closed at a pet hospital in the West Midlands after 54 years as a replacement site in Oldbury opens

The PDSA's pet hospital on Hagley Road in Quinton closed last week but a new £1.8 million facility was due to open on St Matthews Road yesterday (Wednesday).

Sue Hanke, PDSA's client services manager, said: "It's emotional, as we have so many happy memories of this place, but it's time to move on.

"With so many more pets now needing our charitable service, we desperately need more room and modernised facilities."

The new hospital, named after benefactors, is The Marian and Christina Ionescu Centre of Surgical Excellence and has state-of-the-art operating theatres and a critical care ward.

It's back to the fuchsia at annual flower show

THE Black Country Fuchsia Society has a new venue for its annual show.

It is being held at The Hub, Griffiths Drive, Wednesfield, on Saturday from 12.30pm to 5pm. The society has been going for more than 30 years and meets monthly, except for December.

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Stolen car chop shop pair have been jailed

TWO men who ran a Black Country chop shop, found to include three stolen cars worth almost £50,000 when raided by police, have been jailed.

One car was partly dismantled with the serial numbers on the chassis and other parts scratched off, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The others were whole and one of these – a VW Golf – had been stolen from a pizza delivery driver just eight hours earlier, revealed Mr Richard Davenport, prosecuting.

The Golf had a tracker device which led police to the lock-up unit in Ezekeil Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall. Nobody was there when officers arrived on February 19 last year but it had been rented by Tony Cook and Gregory Taylor a month earlier.

Inside was the Golf — stolen in Dudley the previous night — a £30,000 Audi taken during a car key burglary in Wolverhampton and a £15,000 Skoda Octavia stolen from Alastair Norman whilst he was opening the gate to Dudley Rifle Club on February 5.

Mr Norman, aged 59, jumped onto the bonnet in a bid to stop the theft and was badly bruised when thrown off. His .22 rifle he had used for 40 years was in the stolen vehicle and never recovered.

Father-of-two Cook, a 35-year-old roofer, of Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, and Taylor, also a family man, from Spills Meadow, Lower Gornal, both admitted three cases of handling stolen property and were each was jailed for two years.

Tickets selling fast for charity ball

PEOPLE are being urged to get their tickets fast for a charity ball being organised by Miss Black Country, Jade Secker.

The 24-year-old from Wombourne is hosting the Black Country Ball on Friday, August 7, at The Village Hotel, in Castlegate Park, Dudley.

Creators of the Black Country anthem, The Empty Can, will be performing alongside comedians Jonny Cole and Marlene. The event features a two course Black Country buffet.

"I wanted to do something that would help bring people together and help raise money for charity," said Jade. Cash will go to children's charity Beauty with a Purpose. Tickets cost £20. Call 07707 626786 or email missblackcountry@hotmail.com

Girls' school pupils planning a reunion

A REUNION is being planned for pupils to reminisce 50 years after they were classmates. The event in October is for the 84 pupils who started at Dudley Girls' High School in 1965. Call Nicky Dodd on 01405 760113.

Drug dealer told this is his last chance

A DRUG dealer has been warned he has one last chance to put his life in order before getting a lengthy jail term.

Paul Sanders resorted to dealing after he lost his job and his life 'went off the rails spectacularly', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 41-year-old pleaded guilty to two counts of possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply, one count of possessing a Class C substance and one count of acquiring criminal property.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, said police executed a warrant at Sanders' home on January 16 at 6.30am. Officers found five wraps each of heroin and crack cocaine ready for street deals.

They also found a small amount of buprenorphine for Sanders's own use, three 'dealer lists' and a mobile phone. Text messages on the phone were 'indicative of drug dealing, from December 8 to December 23', Mr Searle said.

In 2004 Sanders was jailed for 13 months for supplying heroin to an undercover police officer.

Lowest

Miss Sarah Allen, defending, said: "This is street dealing at its very lowest level. The very small quantities of drugs found on him demonstrate he is dealing to fund his own habit.

"The text messages on his phone started with him asking to purchase drugs, then moving on to selling them onwards."

Sanders, of Osprey Drive, Russells Hall, Dudley, carried out 'habitual drug deals of very tiny quantities, to sustain his own habit', said Miss Allen,

Recorder Roderick Evans sentenced Sanders to two years in jail suspended for two years. He also got a 12-month supervision requirement and a drug rehabilitation requirement.

Recorder Evans also warned Sanders that if he commits another offence of drug dealing he faces a statutory minimum jail term of seven years.

He said: "It seems to me what happened is things went wrong in your life and you went off the rails spectacularly.

"If you don't take this opportunity, things will become dreadful for you very quickly."

Homes are targeted by recycling campaign

A CAMPAIGN to boost recycling is to be launched by Dudley Council with teams going door-to-door in areas that have been targeted by bosses desperate to increase participation by residents.

Environmental chiefs say people living in less affluent areas are apparently disinterested in recycling.

The council said it was proud of its record in terms of recycling but that it was 'imperative' that take-up increases. They hope the new campaign in problem areas will help convince residents of the benefits of recycling.

Households which partially recycle or ignore the practice altogether will be seen as the priority by Dudley Council, which has not named specific areas being targeted.

Bosses are also planning a social media campaign in the hope of convincing more young people to recycle their waste.

Dudley residents have been asked to increase their recycling in recent years, with various bins and bags rolled out to homes to separate waste. The majority of households have complied with the request.

Various methods of collecting household waste to be recycled have been investigated. The council said the existing black box and two re-usable bags are efficient and economical. Paper and cardboard in placed in a blue bag and plastic bottles and cans in a green bag. Prior to 2013, the majority of households were using one 55 litre box for paper, cans and glass.

Discuss

A council report said residents living in poor-performing areas would be visited individually to discuss the subject.

Dudley Council's environment boss Hilary Bills said: "We work hard to encourage residents to share our passion for recycling and thankfully, many do, which is why our recycling rates continue to grow.

"We have extended our kerbside recycling opportunities across the borough, and this has been welcomed by people.

"We will be looking at a wider piece of work to improve communications with our residents and identify reasons why some people find it difficult to recycle."

Figures released earlier this year showed that although around half of households in the Black Country were recycling, the total was still lagging behind the national average.

Grateful father's charity trek

Outside the children's hospital is Jason Addison, right, with supporters including son Scott, second from left

A DETERMINED fundraiser will trek 150km along the Great Wall of China to raise cash for the hospital that saved his son.

Jason Addison is taking on the challenge for Birmingham Children's Hospital's oncology unit.

The unit cared for his son Scott who was diagnosed with leukaemia aged four and treated for three years at the hospital.

Director of Addison Tyres in Tipton, Mr Addison, of Somerford Way, Coseley, said: "They saved my son's life so we will be forever in their debt."

The trek starts on September 13 in Beijing when Mr Addison and a group of other intrepid fundraisers will wind their way along the iconic Great Wall.

Scott, who beat cancer, is due to turn 21 later this year.

Mr Addison, who broke his knee cap in a cycling accident two years ago, said: "The trip is self-funded, so all money donated will go directly to the Birmingham Children's Hospital Ward 15 oncology unit."

He is also selling raffle tickets to raise funds. Tickets are £5 from Addison Tyres in Tipton, Streetbike cafe in Halesowen and Staffs Builders Supplies in Tipton.

Mr Addison is hoping to raise a total of £10,000 during the trek. See www.justgiving.com/addisontyres-china-trek

NEWS IN BRIEF

Retail venture open for hospice

THE former WH Smith store in Dudley town centre is being transformed into a charity shop and is due to open tomorrow (Friday).

Mary Stevens Hospice is launching its new store at the corner of High Street and Wolverhampton Road, which the Mayor of Dudley will officially open.

Hospice chief executive Stevan Jackson, said: "It is great news that this store marks a return to Dudley for Mary Stevens Hospice."

The WH Smith shop closed in 2013. The unit has been empty ever since.

Children sign up for summer reads

ALMOST 700 youngsters across Dudley have signed up to this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

The scheme encourages children to read six books during the school summer holidays.

Children who joined the challenge at the Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge main libraries lwere counted towards a Guinness World Record attempt for the most pledges for a reading campaign in the UK and Ireland.

Children at Dormston School were some of the first to sign up. Visit www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

Songs from shows to help disabled

MUSICAL friends from Kingswinford are putting on a concert for charity helping the disabled.

The show called 'A Musical Send Off' is at The Crestwood School, Bromley Lane, on August 5. Proceeds will go towards Disability In Action.

Adam Smith, one of the performers, said: "It will be a sit down event with lots of familiar songs from the musicals that everyone can join in with."

Doors will open 6.30pm and tickets cost £5. Call 07889473452.

Help with tracing the roots of family trees

PEOPLE interested in tracing their family tree can join a weekly ancestry group in the Black Country.

Members meet at Tipton Library in Unity Walk, Owen Street, every Friday from 10am until noon.

Advice is available to anyone starting the process of tracing their roots. Admission is free.

For further information call 0121 557 1796 or email tipton_library@sandwell.gov.uk

Tenants group meeting

CORBYNS Bromley Tenants and Residents' Association's next public meeting is on Monday evening, August 3. It is at Pensnett Bromley Senior Citizens Club, Tiled House Lane, Pensnett, from 7pm. There will also be a Dudley Council housing clinic from 6.30pm.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Way out in front for sitting on backsides

GIVEN the paucity of achievement in British sport at the moment, I suppose I really ought to congratulate Chris Froome on becoming the first Briton to win the Tour de France twice.

But I really can't get excited by a sport that revolves around strangely dressed men navigating the countryside via an outdated form of transport.

And then there's the Lycra and leg shaving. I know it's all about comfort and aerodynamics, how in this precision sport the competitors will do anything to give them the edge, but it's not right, is it? The sport has done its bit to stamp out performance-enhancing drugs. It now needs to look at performance-enhancing weirdness.

Still, it has taught us a lot about British sport this summer. We are not that good at cricket. We are not too hot at tennis. And we've known for a long time we're not much cop at football. But when it comes to sports which involve sitting on one's backside, we are way out in front.

■■■

A FEW years ago, while patiently waiting for my goods in a well-known catalogue store, I saw something quite shocking.

A short distance away stood the archetypal chav family. Mouthy adults, screaming children, dodgy sportswear, the full shebang.

Anyway, baby was screaming so loudly that even father chav – or maybe grandad chav, he looked over 30 – decided enough was enough. Removing the newborn's bottle from the back of the super-sized pushchair, he unscrewed the teat to fill it. With Vimto.

By now this particular infant will doubtless have morphed into one of those obese children we keep reading about, the reason the Government is now looking at the possibility of a 'sugar tax' to discourage unhealthy lifestyles.

At the same time, talk of alcohol pricing is back on the agenda. The argument goes that, because these clean-living people generally enjoy better-than-average health, they think it is okay to enjoy a little tipple every day. And why not? If people are in good health by virtue of eating sensibly, not smoking and getting sufficient exercise, where's the harm in a glass of wine or beer with dinner?

The sort of people who see no wrong in feeding fizzy pop to a new-born baby are unlikely to be unduly careful with their money. Sticking 20p on the price of fizzy drinks will change nothing.

Similarly, the binge drinkers who spend Friday and Saturday nights spewing up in the gutter will carry on tipping ghastly lager and vile alcopops down their throats, irrespective of a government minimum pricing policy. All it will mean is that the sensible, moderate consumer will be hit in the pocket again. Like they always are.

Niki Zakeri, an engineer and teaching assistant

College head of technology Andrew Cartwright

Alucast engineering apprentice Sarah Fathers, aged 17

It's a man's job, but any girl could do it

Females are proving that anything blokes can do, they can do just as well. **KIMBERLEY CRAYTON-BROWN** reports

IT is almost a century since women got the vote, and more than 35 years since Mr Thatcher took the helm at Number 10 as the UK's first female prime minister.

But despite the great strides taken in so many areas, there are still those who need convincing that women really can do anything men can do – particularly when it comes to work in the trades industry.

It is something, however, that is gradually improving, according to Andrew Cartwright, head of technology at City of Wolverhampton College.

In the five years he has been in the role he says the number of females in industrial courses is on the up.

In engineering, women make up about 19 per cent of the roll, with construction sitting at 12 per cent – an improvement of the three to four per cent when he first took the job, with the lowest uptake in trades, including construction, bricklaying, and carpentry.

Traditional

To get the message across women working in trades are now going into schools and speak to younger girls about just what a career as an engineer or a carpenter might entail, showing them a positive role model in the industry.

He said: "We get the message out that there are jobs out there – and well-paid jobs – other than the more traditional women-only route."

Female students of his have gone on to jobs with JLR and Carillion, high-profile jobs running sites and teams, he says: "There are good jobs out there for them.

"I think young girls who are nine or 10 realise they can do anything. I think the message has got to get across to teachers and parents."

It is the parents and teachers, women in their 30s, 40, 50s, who the college is targeting as part of a 'two-pronged' attack.

Wolverhampton College Mechanical Engineering student Georgina Hordell

In September the college will kick off the first of its 'women only' courses, weekly classes held over the course of 10 weeks in car maintenance and home DIY. Mr Cartwright says these are skills that would not have been taught to girls at school decades ago, as they were still seen as boys' jobs.

Each course will teach basic skills, and Mr Cartwright hopes that by teaching older women these skills, they will see they are just as capable as men, and encourage younger girls to give it a go whether they be their relatives, pupils, or friends.

There is no minimum age on the course, as long as those under 16 are accompanied by a parent. Participants will be assessed, earning a certificate on completion as well as a tool kit so they can keep up with their new trade skills.

And for those who are keen to build on their newfound handiwork, they can move on to one of the longer, accredited courses and work towards a job in the industry.

As far as the old argument that women don't have the muscle for trades jobs, Mr Cartwright says that isn't an issue.

"A woman can pick up a brick exactly the same way a man can. A woman can use maths in exactly the same way a man can. And some of my female engineers would say better than a man can.

"Women are very capable of doing all of the jobs men can do."

However, it may be that employers are lagging a bit behind when it comes to getting the message. One student who is nearing the end of her studies is Georgina Hordell, aged 18, of Heath Town, who has almost completed a two-year BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Manufacturing Engineering. Sending out her CV in the hopes of scoring a job, she is already finding it tough going as a women in a male-dominated industry.

She says: "I have been to so many job interviews. Most of the interviewers we get put with are male, and I think they feel like we aren't going to be super-strong for the job, you need a lot of physical muscle for it depending on what type of job you get."

At one group interview, Georgina was one of just three women out of 35 applicants.

She feels in those situations there is more pressure on female job hopefuls to be vocal and show they can step up and be leaders.

And while there is a lot of focus on whether women are strong enough, Georgina thinks women have advantages over their male counterparts: "We are faster learners, we can solve mathematical questions quickly – we are more mentally strong."

Class

Inspired by her father and grandfather, who both work with cars, she wanted to do something slightly different and signed up for the college course with the aim of working as an electrical engineer.

A lot of people are surprised when they find out what she is studying, she says, and she is the only girl in her class of 16 students.

Also forging a career in engineering is Sarah Fathers, from Tipton, who is a year into her five-year apprenticeship with Alucast in Wednesbury.

The 17-year-old, who studies through the college, had initially planned to study architecture until a teacher suggested engineering.

"I don't regret it," she said. "It has opened my eyes to what I want to do and there are lots of opportunities in my workplace, from maintenance to productivity and quality."

And while the University of Wolverhampton does not offer any 'women-only' courses, figures show the number of female students taking courses traditionally seen as male is on the rise.

Niki Zakeri, an engineer and teaching assistant at the university, believes showing women the practical side of the role – getting them out into workplaces – could be the key to increasing their numbers in the industry.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Flag critic should make an apology

I READ with disbelief and anger at how anyone can say our Black Country flag is offensive. Anti-racism campaigner Patrick Vernon said the chains on the flag are a disturbing image and in America it would be seen as the equivalent of the Confederate Flag.

The Black Country is proud of its chain, nail and glass making heritage, and as Patrick Vernon was brought up in Wolverhampton he knows full well of the Black Country's industrial heritage. Why does Sandwell Council's Darren Cooper feel the need to invite him to visit? There's no need to, he grew up in Wolverhampton so he already knows it.

The only way I would want him to come here was because he was going to apologise to an innocent child for trying to twist the design of her lovely flag into something only he can see. Shame on him and well done to Gracie Sheppard for our lovely Black Country flag. If he still lives in London I hope he stays there

M A BEASLEY
Netherton

Stadium no threat to climate

I WRITE in response to the recent letter from T Weller, Halesowen, who states that it would be stupidity to put a speedway stadium on the outskirts of Halesowen, as it would mess up the climate with greenhouse gasses.

Cradley Heath Speedway have a home meeting every two weeks, for about seven months of the year.

A speedway match consists of 15 heats, each of a minute duration. So 15 minutes of racing every two weeks, is going to cause Halesowen to either burn up or flood. Wow!

I live half a mile from the Merry Hill Centre. I won't lie, I do go there at times, but what does this place contribute to carbon emissions?

I would gladly swap some of Merry Hill for a speedway stadium.

A W GREENWOOD
Quarry Bank

Manor Way needs a crossing

AS a regular user of the A456 Manor Way, I would like to express my concern about the continued absence of a safe means of crossing the dual carriageway between Manor Lane and Grange roundabout.

The A456 acts as a barrier to crossing from one side to the other, inhibiting the ability of people to get out into the countryside towards Illey using the footpath network and walk from the east side of the road to Sandvik or into Halesowen.

People are hindered from accessing the facilities at the cycling, athletics and tennis clubs, the westbound bus stop, petrol station and the public house.

Whilst I accept that a signalised crossing would be costly, it would provide a safe means of access across this busy road as well as helping with speed reduction.

Can I ask, through your newspaper, that the council reconsider their position on a safe crossing provision as a matter of urgency?

R FINCH
Harborne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't blame the workers for strikes

WE are beginning to glimpse the true face of Mr Cameron's government. Their stated intentions to make strikes virtually impossible is a disgraceful attack upon the rights of working population.

Having seen life from both sides of the management-worker divide, I can assure you that employees only consider strike action as an absolutely final option. Invariably, strikes mean that employees lose substantial amounts of money during industrial disputes.

This despicable government has no understanding of industrial relations. Whenever a dispute arises, the Conservatives always presume that the workforce is to blame but the threat of strike action should be seen as a possible indicator of poor management.

I have encountered many senior managers whom I consider to be completely devoid of any management skills. This is backed up by the fact that output per hour in Britain is much lower than in most of the developed world. It has nothing to do with education and skills gaps but everything to do with poor management. The message from this government is that managers can continue to be poor motivators but if the workers complain they won't get anywhere. The worst managers of all are the government.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

I'm sorry for delaying train

I WOULD like to thank all the very kind, efficient and caring people who were present on Platform 3 of Stourbridge Station on Tuesday, July 14, at 4.45pm when I fell descending from the train.

Especially I would thank the station staff, the train driver, the police and the paramedics and the lady first-aider, and would apologise to all those aboard the train for the lengthy delay.

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60th celebration is arranged by club

Make and Natter day is coming

Pelsall E TG

FORMAL matters were soon concluded at the July 16 meeting on and orders for choice of filling for baked potatoes to be supplied by Eatso at next month's members evening were collected.

Members were reminded of the Federation Make and Natter Day to be held at Pelsall Community Centre, Station Road, Pelsall, on Saturday August 22.

This will be in two sessions 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm, at a cost of £6 per session. Entry is by ticket only. Refreshments will be available.

A tutor and materials will be available at each table and will last approximately one hour per table

Pat Heeley confirmed details for the outing on Monday August 24 to Buxton, Derbyshire, with afternoon tea aboard the Judith Mary, a 72ft long canal boat.

The Walking Group advised that this month they had walked some old familiar routes, via public footpaths and canal towpaths, to Aldridge, Brownhills and Walsall Arboretum.

After a short coffee break Guest Speaker, Pamela Wade, gave an insight into her life as a Hospital School Room Teacher.

She recalled some touching and moving examples, together with some very amusing and inspiring incidents.

Pamela covered a side of hospital life not given much publicity. The monthly competition for a handmade Get Well card was won by Ann Sale and the raffle winner was guest Ann Baker.

Warm welcome to potential members

Shareshill WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed everyone and particularly seven potential new members.

Things have been fairly quiet since last meeting – seven Eating Out club members had a very nice lunch at the Bridge Inn, Brewood.

As she was their delegate as well as ours, the President went to Coven WI meeting to tell them about the Centenary AGM in the Albert Hall.

She was made very welcome and Coven WI have invited Shareshill members to their Open meeting on May 10 next year.

Members were reminded that Centenary Raffle tickets are still available and the Group Meeting is onOctober 22 at St John's Church Hall, Heath Hayes, where the speaker will bePaul Dadge on The Power of a Picture. We are hoping for good weather for the Summer Saunter on August 20 leaving from outside the Post Office at 6.15pm prompt.

Craft Club will be meeting on Thursday August 13; Theatre Club members are going to Wightwick Manor on the same date to see Hamlet. The Darts Club is still practising on Tuesday evenings at the Dog and Partridge and Eating Out Club will not meet again until October.

The meeting on September 17 will be a Skittles Party to celebrate the 100th birthday of WI and members can each bring along one friend.

Donations of food for the evening are still required.

Wolverhampton Flower Arrangement Club

WOLVERHAMPTON Flower Arrangement Club celebrated its Diamond Anniversary.

The celebration lunch took place on July 17 at The Horns, Boningale, Albrighton.

Chairman Mrs Maureen Cooper welcomed 50 members and guests, which included the National chairman, Sue Brinton, Mercia and North Wales President, Sue Davies, Chairman Sue Dix and Area Past Chairman Anita Wright.

Chairman of the Wolverhampton Club, Mrs Maureen Cooper said it was a special day and needed a special celebration.

Delving into the archives, she discovered the club, was founded in 1955 by worthy ladies of the town including Lady Margaret Lees and Dr Hickmans who wrote a regular column in the Express & Star and the paper also carried a regular page on the Art of Flower Arrangement.

There was a strict vetting procedure to join and waiting lists could be as long as a year to join the then 100 member club.

Images of Worcs on show

K-swinford &District Historical Society

AT the July meeting John Billingham gave his presentation of Worcester Images.

Most of the views were of familiar towns and villages and he explained the significance of hop picking in the Teme Valley, Broadway and its Tower, Pershore Abbey, Worcester Cathedral, Bewdley and the influence of John Corbett and the salt production of Droitwich.

The Society meets at the Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford on the first Monday in the month.

The next meeting on August 3 at 7.30pm sees Robert Ernshaw, a warden at Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, presenting his talk on the area. On the following Monday members are invited to join him on a walk at the reserve. Call Ron Julian 01384 295848.

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Thea will be making history this summer

Wordsley schoolgirl Thea Hunt, who wants to be a knight, launches the English Heritage wish list at Kenilworth Castle

AN eight-year-old girl from the Black Country has been appointed to a special role at English Heritage to give a 'kid's-eye' view of its historic buildings and monuments.

Thea Hunt has been made the charity's child executive officer in a bid to improve its events for families.

Her first job was unveiling the results of a survey to find youngster's top history-inspired wishes.

Top on the list was the dream of discovering hidden treasure, followed by a desire to be king or queen for a day, followed by the chance to sit on a throne.

Thea will be tasked with making a number of these wishes a reality.

Emily Sewell, of English Heritage, said: "We already run a huge programme of great family events across the country but we wanted to make it even better this summer and the best way to do that is to put children in charge.

Interviewed

"We asked them what they would most like to do at our sites and with Thea as our CEO, we're going to make it all happen."

More than 500 children applied for the role and 50 were then interviewed. Bosses at English Heritage – which looks after sites including Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall – said Thea stood out.

In her application she revealed her history wish: "It would be great to take part in a knights' tournament and feel how scary it really was charging to the opponent. I think there should be girl knights too because girls also have passion and drive and energy. "

The Bellevue School pupil added: "I can't wait to see the faces of children and their families when they're doing events from our History Wish List."

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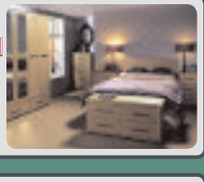

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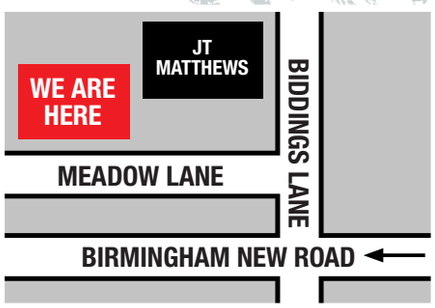

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Student's award for volunteering

A STUDENT from Tividale has been recognised for clocking up more than 300 hours of volunteering during the academic year.

Philip Brookes completed a total of 326 volunteering hours between August 2014 to May 2015, earning him the Union Activities Volunteer of the Year award at Worcester Students' Union annual Volunteering and Societies Awards.

The 23-year-old, who has just completed his degree in Business Management, carried out his volunteering with the Students' Union and in the university's international office helping new students.

Mr Brookes said that volunteering had helped to boost his confidence. He added: "I got to meet so many amazing people while I was volunteering, so to get an award for something so fun was surreal and showed that people actually appreciated me and the work I had done."

Students at the university clocked up 31,000 volunteering hours.

Move to make thousands pay more towards the council tax

THOUSANDS of families face paying more council tax under plans to scrap a benefits scheme, which Dudley Council says will bring in £1.4 million.

The changes would mean single parents, people with disabilities and other low-income households in the borough having to pay more.

The changes to the Council Tax Reduction scheme could affect up to 9,815 households in the borough, it has been revealed.

They currently benefit from major savings on council tax, with some having it paid in full.

But bosses say this may no longer be possible due to the major budget constraints faced by the council.

Pensioners

If the changes are pushed through, everyone in the borough would be required to pay at least some council tax from April next year.

Pensioners, however, would remain protected and would not be affected by the change.

Council chiefs are recommending that all residents — except those aged over 65 — pay at least 20 per cent of their council tax bill, which they describe as a 'small contribution'.

A 12-week consultation on the proposals has been launched by the local authority.

Finance boss David Sparks said: "Dudley, like many councils has been hit hard by central government cuts and whilst we have done all that we can to protect those on lower incomes, we are investigating whether a small council tax contribution by households that are currently protected is feasible. As a community council we want to take into account our residents' views before reaching a decision."

Councillor David Sparks

Especially for brides-to-be

BRIDES-TO-BE are invited to a free events at Dudley's Priory Hall to help them to plan their big day.

The bridal showers take place from 5 to 7pm on September 3 and October 1 when there will be displays by photographers and stalls featuring jewellery, make-up, cakes and other services.

The events are aimed at future brides and their mums, sisters, bridesmaids and friends with visitors being given a free glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival.

Registrars will also be on hand to answer any questions, to book ceremonies, discuss ceremony options and take payments. A range of 'pre-loved' bridal gowns will also be on display to purchase, many of which have never been worn.

For more information contact the office on (01384) 818349 or email marriage.enquiry@dudleygov.uk

Arcade Toy Shop is back in familar place

Toy shop's new owners Martyn Perry, left, and Dave Carter

A POPULAR toy shop, that has been a Dudley institution for decades, has officially reopened under new owners in its original location.

Dave Carter and Martyn Perry bought Dudley's famous Arcade Toy Shop, based in the Fountain Arcade, saving it from disappearing from the town scene.

In May previous owner Alan Caswell, whose family had run the shop since 1968, started his retirement.

Mr Carter and Mr Perry decided to take on the store and coinciding with a major revamp of the Fountain Arcade, returning it to its original 1930s glory. Due to works in recent months it had moved to another unit in the arcade but now the shop is back in its usual place.

Mr Carter, aged 47, who worked at Dudley Council for 22 years and business partner Martyn, 51, plan to keep the shop as well-stocked as it was with a large variety of toys for all ages. Mr Carter added: "We have had so many people coming in saying how glad they are that it is staying so they can carry on the tradition of buying their children and grandchildren toys from the town."

Pupil work experience involved Germany trip

STUDENTS from a Dudley school travelled to Germany to complete work experience placements.

For the second year, 15-year-old students from High Arcal School's 'gifted and talented' programme visited the German town of Oldenburg for work experience. The teenagers spent a week working in a range of German companies, including a newly opened hotel, media consultancy, IT software company, a school and a hospital.

This work experience programme is a joint initiative between the High Arcal School and its partner institution in Germany, The Academy of English. Students stayed with German families and took part in a range of events. The highlight of the trip was a team-building exercise, known in German as a 'betriebsausflug'. The Academy hired three light aircraft from the Motorfluggruppe Wilhelmshaven and flew the students to the island of Wangerooge for a day trip.

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Brewers back Fizzogs' Festival Fringe shows

THE Fizzogs are planning on havin' a loff at Edinburgh's Festival Fringe with help from Holden's Brewery.

Comedy actors Sue Hawkins, Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls, who make up The Fizzogs, have gained sponsorship from the Dudley-based brewery to take their unique blend of Black Country comedy to Scotland for the world's largest arts festival.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe takes place every August for three weeks in Scotland's capital city.

The Fizzogs will be there for seven days between the August 7 and 13.

They are also in talks about producing their own beer with Holden's to take to the festival with them.

Deb Nicholls, one third of the trio who are best known for their Dancing Grannies characters, explained: "It costs around £4,000 to go to Fringe for one week. And we've accumulated around £2,000 from our generous fans and a cash donation from Holden's.

Support

"This is our first time working alongside Holden's but we can't wait to give them a mention at our shows and even bring a bottle or two of our own beer with us – which we're currently in talks about producing with them. We can't wait to bring a bit of the Black Country to Edinburgh."

The Fizzogs and Holden's partnership has been in the planning since the comedy group met Holden's representatives via the Black Country Festival preparations.

Abi Temp, Holden's Director, said: "We've contributed towards a show for them, and hopefully they'll be able to get both our names out there whilst up in Scotland.

"They are great girls, absolutely hilarious and obviously we love to support local acts. It is a really nice partnership that we have. It's nice to be able to try something different."

Jacky Fellows and Deb Nicholls, in granny guise, with Holden's Abi Temp

Fizzog Productions, formed in 2000 has presented a series of shows and sketches at venues across the region, including the Black Country Living Museum.

Before Edinburgh, they perform Funny As Folk with Black Country musicians The Empty Can at Netherton Arts Centre tomorrow (Friday). It's the last show of the Black Country Festival and tickets are £12. Call 07757 424618 or visit www.fizzogproductions.co.uk

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Educating the parents on parking

WEST Midlands UKIP MEP and Sedgley councillor Bill Etheridge has welcomed plans to tackle a parking problem by approaching parents.

Catholic Lane in Sedgley is affected by school traffic from nearby St Chad's Catholic Primary School. Residents complained to Mr Etheridge that their driveways are obstructed and that it is a danger to children walking to school.

The Safer Routes to Schools programme in Dudley aims to encourage children to walk, cycle or take public transport to school, whilst improving safety and children's health.

Councillor Etheridge said: "I am delighted the council is approaching this in a very constructive way. Educating parents and children in their ways of getting to and from school is a very positive step."

Teddy bears' picnic date

A COMMUNITY group in Gornal is staging a teddy bear picnic event for families with young children.

Ellowes Hall and Area Tenants and Residents' Association has teamed up with the Friends of Cotwall End Valley to hold the event on August 15 in the nature reserve, from 1 to 3pm.

Families can bring along children up to 11-years-old with their bears to join in, meeting at The Alley entrance, off Straits Road.

FOCUS ON SEDGLEY AND GORNAL

Library turned into castle of imagination for children

A LIBRARY has been officially reopened following a £40,000 refurbishment.

Gornal Library now features a larger children's area, a new shelving system, replacement seating, carpets and lighting.

One of the most striking changes has been the introduction of an archway as part of the castle-themed children's area which is a nod to Dudley's famous landmark.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho, was invited to make the relaunch official last week.

Jan Saxon, senior library assistant, said: "Everyone has loved the refurbishment, almost without fail. We were long overdue for decoration.

"The children have just loved the castle whether that be going on the archway or using the drawbridge desk or the bits around the top of the room.

"It is all about encouraging the youngsters to get reading and it has come at a good time with the summer reading challenge."

The nationwide summer reading challenge sets children on their school holidays the task of reading or sharing six books before they return to classes.

Those who complete the challenge are awarded a medal and enter a prize draw to win tickets for various days out.

Report by Rob Cox

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for wellbeing, said: "Gornal Library is a very well used facility and now boasts improved facilities.

"The work took place following a period of consultation with library users which enabled them to have their say over the new look of the library, including the colour scheme, the castle design and layout.

"The improvements have already been very well received amongst young and old alike, with many favourable comments received. The castle archway is particularly popular with the children."

The library in Abbey Road hosts a variety of activities and events for children and for adults there is a weekly knit and natter group, two reading groups, ancestry and computer sessions.

In the new-look Gornal Library, following a £40,000 revamp, are senior library assistant Jan Saxon and library assistant Sue Spandrzyk, pictured at the new castle style archway in the children's library section

Debut book inspired by childhood

A FATHER-TO-BE has delivered his first novel just ahead of the arrival of his first child. His wife Sarah is due to give birth to their first baby next month.

Comic novel The King of Brownswall by Dave Abbiss is loosely based on his home town of Sedgley.

The 31-year-old teacher and FA-qualified football coach is a Nottingham Forest fan and has seen his work featured in Forest's match-day programme.

His novel features many Sedgley landmarks including the Brownswall field where he and school friends used to play soccer, and Sedgley Beacon. Mr Abbiss, who attended St Chad's RC Primary School and Bishop Milner RC School said: "The book reflects a special time in my life, growing up with like-minded and idealistic friends."

To find our more visit www.daveabbiss.com

Action Heart evening run

A 5km evening run is being held around the paths and trails at a country park, near Sedgley.

The Baggeridge 5K will be taking place on Thursday, August 6, at 7pm at Baggeridge Country Park, Gospel End. It is being organised by the Action Heart Running Club at Russells Hall Hospital,with proceeds to the Action Heart cardiac rehabilitation programme.

For details contact (01384) 292233.

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Special school is proud to be in Parliament book

A FLAGSHIP special school in Dudley has been featured in a prestigious book on British history.

'The Story of Parliament: Celebrating 750 years of Parliament in Britain' gives a comprehensive account of parliamentary politics, with heads of state and British embassies worldwide receiving copies.

Inside they will also find a double-page spread profiling Brier School in Kingswinford.

Headteacher Russell Hinton, explained: "In the book you have got sections about the history of Parliament but then also sections about different elements of what make up modern Britain.

"There is a section on education, where we fitted in, a section on manufacturing, one on health and many more. They looked at several different schools when deciding on who would be involved. We were picked for being an inclusive school with a good reputation."

The school was first asked to be involved around 18 months ago by The History of Parliament Trust. Staff from the trust came to the school and carried out interviews and took photographs to create the feature.

This year the school was invited to send representatives to a presentation event at Westminster Abbey and to contribute work to an exhibition staged to accompany the book's publication. Pupils also held their own school election.

Mr Hinton, added: "When I saw the book would be sent to embassies and heads of state that made me immensely proud to be the headteacher at such a school. Pictures of Brier School may be seen across the world. That is fantastic."

The Brier School headteacher Russell Hinton shows the school's section in the book on Parliament

Supermarket sweep in for charity choice

TWO supermarkets in the Black Country have announced which charities they will support for the coming year. Staff and customers at Sainsbury's Amblecote and Merry Hill stores chose The Paul Ackrill Fund and Alzheimer's Society.

It's the seventh year of the Sainsbury's Local Charity of the Year scheme, which has raised over £7 million to support local charities since 2009.

This year, for the first time, customers got the chance to vote for their charity, from a shortlist, put together by their local store.

The Paul Ackrill Fund helps people under the age of 30, diagnosed with cancer, living or being treated in the West Midlands. Sainsbury's Amblecote will kick off the campaign with a teddy tombola on July 31 and August 1.

Gill Ackrill, a trustee from The Paul Ackrill Fund said: "We're absolutely thrilled to be chosen as the Sainsbury's Amblecote Local Charity of Year. We can't wait to work together and raise the profile of our charity over the next year. Thank you to all the customers that voted for us, we really appreciate the support."

Cyclist's continent conquest complete

CANCER survivor Sam Greatrex has completed a marathon cycle ride across an entire continent and surpassed his fundraising goal of £240,000.

Sam, from Halesowen, successfully made his way from the east to the west coast of South America, covering a total distance of more than 2,493 miles (or 4,000km), which is a greater distance than this year's Tour de France.

He completed the epic journey, without support staff, in just under a month.

It was the latest leg of his charity challenge called Lap the World, in which he set out to raise £240,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

It was while travelling though Peru that the 30-year-old discovered that donations had topped a quarter of a million pounds.

The charity is a deeply personal cause for the intrepid fundraiser who, at the age of 10, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma.

He underwent successful chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital and was helped through his treatment and recovery by Macmillan nurse Moira Bradwell.

Sam said that she had been 'an inspiration' to him and he had continued to see her regularly for check-ups for the next 17 years.

Sam on a beach in Peru

Atlantic

He completed the first leg of his formidable challenge last year by cycling 1,700 miles through Southern France, Spain and to the western edge of Europe at Lagos in Portugal's Algarve region.

The aim has been to avoid any motorised forms of transport, so he then set about reaching the Americas — by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

His five-strong team completed the 3,800 nautical-mile journey in 51 days in a 28ft boat, beating the previous world record by 20 days. The team rowed 12 hours a day.

The latest solo leg across South America meant taking on the Amazon rainforest, the Andes mountains and apparently endless miles of South American dirt roads, sometimes through dangerous regions.

After overcoming several hundred kilometres of dirt road after setting off in Guyana, he crossed the border into Brazil where he discovered he did not have the required entry stamp. As a result, he had to reach the city of Manaus — 100 miles away — in three days to pay a fine or risk being deported.

After making it to Manaus he was forced to take an Amazon river boat after rain destroyed the route ahead.

Sam eventually completed the epic journey in Peru on July 15 having covered more than 4,000km.

He said on Twitter: "4,013.5km done! South America, thank you for the amazing end to the expedition."

Opening date for new

BIRMINGHAM'S new Harvey Nichols store will open to the public tomorrow (Friday).

The 45,000 sq ft store in the newly transformed Mailbox, will be Harvey Nichols' first design concept store and will offer more than 200 of the world's most desirable brands.

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Labour's question of power or protest

WITH great power comes great responsibility, according to Spider-Man's Uncle Ben.

OK, it was Voltaire originally but I read it in a comic book first. The problem for Labour at the moment is it's in a right old mess because it has no power, but rather a lot of responsibility.

It still sees itself as the party that will be champion to the vulnerable, the working class, the victims of austerity and the ones who would suffer most from the cuts. Except that doesn't win elections.

And now it's in an existential dilemma over who it wants to lead it. Jeremy Corbyn might have appeared to some as a mild-mannered, harmless Peter Parker-esque political nerd. There were a few of his party colleagues that appeared to nominate him just to have a debate or to liven up the leadership challenge.

Equation

But he has leapt up the opinion polls as though he has been bitten by a radioactive spider. And now the question for Labour is this: Does it want to be a party of power or a party of protest?

Some say it can be both. History does not back that up.

Take out of the equation Tony Blair's victories and Harold Wilson's 1974 miserable, just barely workable majority of three and Labour has not won a General Election decisively since the mid-1960s. The grass roots membership are crying out for a party that champions the causes they hold dear. The vast majority of MPs know that passion is nothing without power.

Wolverhampton MP Emma Reynolds

Dudley North MP Ian Austin

"I want to see an end to the bedroom tax and to exploitative zero hours contracts," pleads Wolverhampton MP and shadow local government secretary Emma Reynolds. "We can only do that with a Labour government. And we won't have a Labour government if we go back to 1980s-style socialism. I don't want the party to be just about protest marches."

Dudley's Ian Austin has made no secret of his thoughts about Mr Corbyn and his record of rebelling against his own party, saying: "I am scared of what would become of us if he won."

Backbenchers Rob Marris (Wolverhampton South West) and David Winnick (Walsall North) defied their party whip and voted against the welfare cuts. It seems to have gone down well with grass roots supporters.

But as Mr Blair put it: "You win from the centre; you win when you appeal to a broad cross section of the public; you win when you support business as well as unions. You don't win from a traditional leftist position."

And here's the rub for Labour. MPs, most of them at least, do want to win because they believe in their ability to change things. The grassroots membership, if the polls about Mr Corbyn are correct, does not want to win at the cost of the values they hold dear. They would rather persuade people that their way works, rather than compromise in order to woo people who would otherwise vote Tory.

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£2.5m for manufacturer's expansion

From left, Tim King from A&T Enclosures, Central Finance MD Alison Bradley and Mark Harris from Lloyds Bank

A SPECIALIST manufacturing firm in Dudley has moved into new premises, taking on more staff and investing in machinery, thanks to a £2.5 million finance package.

The move has funded ambitious expansion plans at A&T Enclosures that could see the firm hiring another 29 workers over the next three years, to add to the company's 50-strong staff.

Business advisors Central Finance worked to secure the funding, including £1.3m commercial mortgage from Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking and £577,000 Regional Growth Fund grant via Sandwell Council.

A&T Enclosures, based on Grazebrook Industrial Park, makes specialist metal boxes to house electronics, electrical systems, switchgear and control consoles for customers including rail, water and utility businesses.

The 20-year-old business wanted the money to drive its expansion into new sectors, fund research and development, buy equipment and hire extra staff, as well as cementing its commitment to Dudley by buying its premises.

Tim King, A&T's managing director, said: "This expansion will enable us to develop and diversify our products and secure the future of our business. It was clear we needed to invest in our machinery, our workforce, our research and development and ultimately our premises. Our aims were and are ambitious and we wanted to work with someone who could achieve our capital requirements both swiftly and efficiently."

Alison Bradley. the managing director at Central Finance, said: "Accessing both grants and other business finance products especially commercial mortgages can be complex, time consuming and often scary to many businesses, but our experienced team understand the market."

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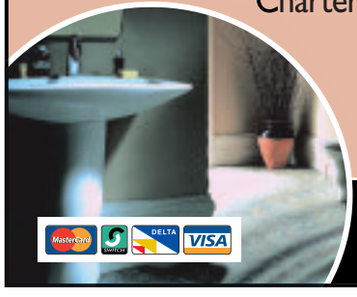

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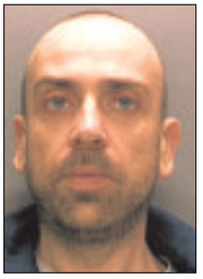
Family speak after killer is jailed

Devastated – Baljit Singh's brothers Jasraj, Gurprit, Amrit and Sundip with sister Pritpal outside court



Murderer Stuart Millership

Victim Baljit 'Bill' Singh

After the discovery — Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, where Mr Singh's body was found in a cellar

A DEPRAVED killer has been jailed for at least 25 years for murdering a friend and leaving his body in a cellar.

Stuart Millership 'completely lost it' when Baljit 'Bill' Singh refused to give him his £15,000 Range Rover in settlement of an alleged debt.

The 33-year-old was high on cocaine when he savagely battered the 50-year-old over the head up to 20 times with a blunt instrument – possibly a short iron bar like a wheel brace – in a house in Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, where the defendant was living.

Mr Singh, whose hands were broken as he frantically tried to fend off the blows, was then stabbed in the neck and either fell or was pushed down the stairs into the cellar where Millership hid the body.

It was discovered by police on New Year's Day, nine days after the murder and less than 24 hours after Millership had been arrested on suspicion of stealing Mr Singh's Range Rover from his home in Harborne.

Detective Inspector Warren Hines said: "He is a cold, calculating, greedy criminal and really dangerous man.

"His only thoughts were for himself and what he wanted. This is vividly illustrated by the way he dealt with Baljit after murdering him. He threw him away like a piece of rubbish. He really is depraved."

Sentencing the killer at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday, Judge John Warner said Millership 'completely lost it' when the victim refused to settle the alleged debt.

He said: "Only you know what happened and what conversation passed beforehand. I am sure the Range Rover and money figured large. You got both by killing him.

"You completely lost it and carried out a sustained, frenzied, murderous attack as the victim tried in vain to protect himself."

The version given by the defendant, who had pleaded guilty to the murder on the basis that he played a minor role in the attack with two Albanians delivering the fatal blows, was dismissed by the court.

Judge Warner concluded: "You had a clear motive for an argument and far worse."

The devastated family of Mr Singh afterwards spoke of the terrible burden his nine-year-old son will have to carry for the rest of his life.

Amrit Singh, one of the four brothers of the victim who also has a sister, told how joy swiftly changed to anguish and worry when Baljit did not return for his beloved son Roman's ninth birthday party after going out to collect a birthday cake.

He continued: "The cake never arrived back at the home address and neither did Baljit. Little did we know that he had already left us.

"Day by day out hearts were aching in disbelief he had not returned home. Our efforts over the days between Christmas and New Year intensified as we shared in the search for Baljit. A glimmer of hope came when his car was found. It was something for us all to hang on to and believe he was still alive.

"On New Year's Day we were given the devastating news that he had been the victim of an act of evil and had been murdered."

Speaking on behalf of the family, Mr Singh said: "As an only child Roman spent all his time with his father, his dad was his best friend. How can he ever make sense of losing his dad?"

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Panicking driver began an 80mph police chase

A DRIVER panicked when he saw a police car behind him, leading to a high-speed chase through Black Country, a judge heard.

Police searching for a Ford Focus followed one being driven by Ibrar Mohammed for a short distance while checks were made. But before the inquiry could rule out the car, Mohammed had accelerated to 80mph in a 30mph zone, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 29-year-old motorist had seen the police car – with neither siren nor flashing lights deployed – in his rear view mirror and panicked when his passenger disclosed he was carrying some drugs.

Mr Kevin Jones, prosecuting, explained: "Police were looking for an unrelated Ford Focus and were travelling behind this car while some checks were made.

"These eliminated it from the police inquiry but by then the motorist was driving dangerously."

Humps

Mohammed careered over speed humps, hurtled through junctions, drove on the wrong side of the road forcing other traffic to take evasive action and went through sets of red lights.

The seven minute chase on March 2 started in Bloomfield Road, Tipton, and ended on Birmingham New Road near its junction with Tividale Road when Mohammed tried to run away

Miss Jabeen Akhtar, defending, said: "His driving was pretty appalling.

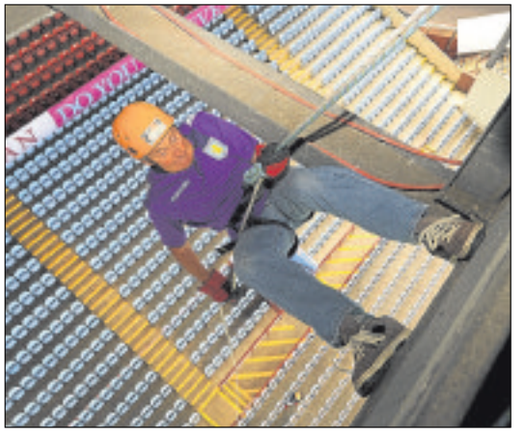
"When he realised the police car was behind him his passenger revealed he had some drugs.

"The defendant panicked and did not inquire about the quantity. This would have revealed it was a small amount consistent with personal use for which the passenger has already been fined."

Mohammed, of Walford Street, Oldbury, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving.

He was given a six months jail sentence suspended for a year, banned from driving for 18 months and ordered to pay £1,500 costs with 150 hours unpaid work.

Grandad's abseil challenge



Halesowen's Peter Goode, aged 77, starts his descent from 100ft above the Holte End at Villa Park in aid of Acorns Children's Hospice

IT was a hair-raising experience for a Halesowen grandfather who abseiled 100ft down one of Villa Park's most famous stands.

Grandfather-of-two Peter Goode had a bird's eye view of the Holte End when he took part in the challenge for charity.

But he stayed cool under pressure – having worked for many years as an engineer on the BT Tower, an iconic part of the Birmingham skyline.

"Heights aren't a problem for me. I really enjoyed it. Not many people see Villa Park like that," he said.

The 77-year-old from Woodbury Road, Halesowen, joined others helping to raise cash for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Volunteers were strapped into harnesses before abseiling their way down from the gantry on the roof.

Mr Goode decided to take part after hearing about children cared for by the hospice. His son Nigel's partner Susan Edwards is a fundraiser and administrator at the charity. Nigel, 50, also took part. "When you see what these children go through you want to do something to help," added Mr Goode.

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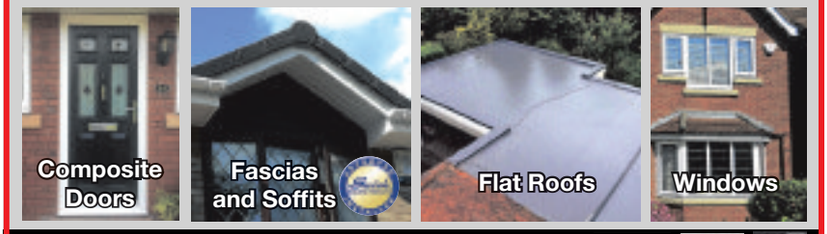

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Boycott's first class innings for cricket fans

Boycott and Aggers, the second innings, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

GIVEN the chance he would bat all day – and Geoff Boycott showed he could have easily stopped on stage just as long.

On the eve of the crucial third Test at Edgbaston, Boycott and Test Match Special colleague Jonathan Agnew entertained the Symphony Hall audience for more than two hours with their Second Innings show – so-called as it followed a similar event two years ago.

With 'Aggers' acting as the perfect stooge, the Yorkshire and England legend gave his forthright views on the state of game today and on England's prospects of winning the Ashes.

He lamented the current side's batting ability, with special mention being made of Warwickshire hero Ian Bell and gave his opinion on the Kevin Pietersen saga.

There were tales of old, highlighted by video footage, while Boycott was also quizzed by Aggers in a Mastermind-style challenge to see how much he knew about himself.

Questions from the audience followed, though Boycott's anecdotes about Brian Clough went on too long.

And for those with their Boycott Bingo cards, give yourself a mark for 'Stick of Rhubarb' and for his opinion on would-be opener Luke Wright: "My mum could bat better than him."

A great night for all cricket enthusiasts

Mark Shipp

Bethan and the Morgans who had a pre-launch concert for their debut album Oddity

Out of the chaos comes the sound of Bethan

Bethan and the Morgans
Katie Fitzgerald's

REVIEWS

WITH several technical difficulties, a little bit of nerves and a contingent of the audience who obviously thought they had paid to be part of a loud debating society, the launch of Midlands band Bethan and the Morgans' album, Oddity, in Stourbridge was pretty chaotic.

As the show at Katie Fitzgerald's progressed the nerves dissipated, the technical problems were eventually solved but the annoying and intrusive chatter went on.

All this aside Bethan Edwards, the lead singer, did get a chance to show her voice cannot be contained by a small venue such as the cellar of the Enville Street pub which is run by Eddy Morton, founder of the Bushbury Mountain Daredevils and who is a well-known and respected figure on the music scene.

The Morgans, who are fellow founder member David Ross, Lauren Bennett who provides the harmonies and double bass, James Rhodes and Daniel Fosteras, mixed in covers from such as Adele with songs from their debut album.

Edwards has a tremendous voice which can carry an awful lot of emotion and you kind of get the feeling that if she had really used the full power of her vocals she would have loosened some of the brickwork.

Strangely enough they opened with, You Will Learn, a track intended for their next album and which gave a flavour that it could be more rock orientated than their first.

But obviously they did throw in several tracks from the disc bringing their mix of country, folk and pop influenced songs

With a little polish and a bit more experience under their belts the Midlands are going to hear a lot more from Bethan and the Morgans.

Danny Farragher

Express & Star

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Knife crime is down by half over six years

KNIFE crime in the West Midlands has fallen every year for the last six years, figures show.

Offences have gone down by around half involving the possession of a knife or an offensive weapon resulting in a caution or sentence, according to the Ministry of Justice (MoJ).

Latest statistics show that there were 870 such crimes resulting in cautions or sentences in the 12 months to March this year. This compares with 1,796 over the same period from 2008/9 according to the Government department. The 870 crimes show a fall from 935 on 2013/14.

MoJ officials say there are currently 36 knife crimes per 100,000 population every year in the West Midlands. This is lower than areas like Cleveland at 55 per 100,000, London which is 47 per 100,000 and Durham at 45 per 100,000.

Detective Chief Inspector Kath Davis said: "West Midlands Police has invested heavily in campaigns and operations to tackle knife crime across the region over the past ten years, which has led to a significant decrease over time in the number of offences recorded."

It comes as the latest stage of a knife amnesty campaign is taking place across Bilston.

Banks

Knife banks have been installed in the town as part of the British Ironwork Centre's 'Save A Life, Surrender A Knife' campaign. The British Ironwork Centre, based in Shropshire, plans to use the knives to create a monument at London's Trafalgar Square commemorating stabbing victims.

The family of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins have backed the knife bank campaign.

The 16–year–old was fatally stabbed in Birmingham in 2013 while travelling on a bus to Leasowes High School. Her killer, paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, was sentenced to an indeterminate hospital order.

Bravo for young ballerina

It's a dream come true for Hannah Beech, aged eight, who will be training among British ballet's best youngsters at Elmhurst School of Dance

AN eight-year-old schoolgirl has won a place at a prestigious dance academy associated with the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Hannah Beech, of Brierley Hill, has been dancing under the stewardship of Michelle Portman of the MSA Academy at Brierley Hill for four years.

In September she will join the Elmhurst School for Dance in Edgbaston.

Ms Portman said: "She has done incredibly well and is the first one of my students who has gone through to Elmhurst. I only started putting children through for the auditions this year. It will start off with an associate programme which will see her go every Saturday and when she is 11 she will audition again for the lower school."

Her parents Caroline and Jonathan added: "We are both incredibly proud and delighted with her success."

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Staff outside Boynton's Butchers in Pinfold Street

Staff at Clemmys, which is still going strong today

Staff at the Perks's Shop prior to decimalisation in the early 1970s

Middleton's Fish Shop in King Street in the 1980s

Mrs Carless with her large selection of sweets at the Carless Sweet Shop at Catherine's Cross

History of once-vibrant shopping town in store

A NEW book has been published to celebrate the impact of the dozens of shops that had people flocking to Darlaston.

The 92-page book titled 'Shops and Clubs of Darlaston Throughout the Years' is the result of a project undertaken by the Darlaston All Active charity and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund grant to the tune of £54,000.

It features dozens of old photographs of the old businesses and clubs, going back as far back as the late 19th century. It also includes several stories from contributors who recall the days when Darlaston was a buzzing shopping hub.

The team behind the book said there were about 70 shops in the town in its heyday, but now there are just a dozen.

They say things have never been the same since Asda's redeveloped supermarket came to the town – built on land where some its former and most loved family-run shops stood.

The book tells how William Wenn's grocery store in Pinfold Street in the

MEMORY LANE

By Nigel Slater

19th century was the first building in Darlaston to be lit by electricity. And it explores the history of other family-run businesses, including the likes of Boynton's the Butchers, J.T Underwood's Shoe Shop, Burton's the tailors, Howard Brothers which sold radios, televisions and records, Middleton's toy shop and George Mason's Butchers.

It also gives an insight into the history of family run store Bedworth's in King Street – owned by town resident Leonard Bedworth – which sold groceries and on its first floor ran Darlaston's first ever cafe in the 1950s.

King Street, described as the main shopping street of the town in years gone by, included an array of butchers shops, a cooked meat shop, two greengrocers, cake shops, two wet fish shops and a furniture store – some are still trading today. Clothing shop Clemmy's of King Street opened in 1967 and expanded into a school uniform business. The shop is still part of the town centre today under the name Clemmys.

There is also a dedicated chapter about L & S Middleton's fish shop in Church Street in the 1960s, which expanded to a cash and carry business which is still going strong today in Willenhall.

Darlaston All Active member Pauline Poole writes about her memories of shopping in the town centre and the excitement it used to create.

The book also details all the shops in Darlaston Green, Walsall Road and on Blockall Road, including several sweet shops. A detailed history of the town's fish and chip shops is included.

It was compiled by Darlaston All Active member and town historian Tony Highfield, 73, who has written several books detailing Darlaston's proud history for the past 20 years.

More than 200 people were at an event to see the book being launched by Walsall Mayor Councillor Angela Underhill on July 17. The book is available to buy at the Darlaston All Active centre. For more information call 0121 5686 144.

Sharon Felton and compiler, historian Tony Highfield

Billy Winfindale, now aged 92, ran his cycle shop in Wolverhampton Street for many years

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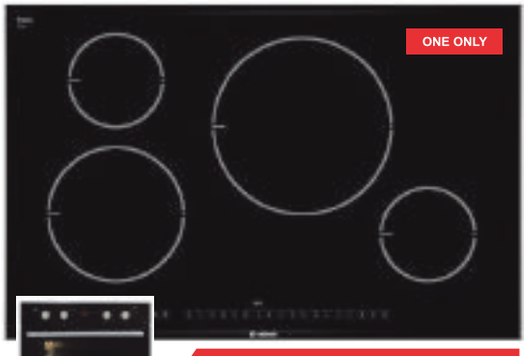

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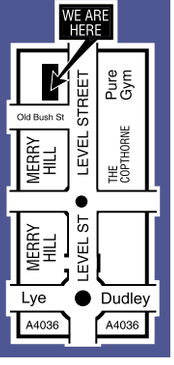

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Call 01922 682018

Brewood Acoustic Club
Thu at 8pm,
Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ashes Road, Brewood, ST19 9HX.
Call 01902 850422

Country Music Nights
Sun at 8.15pm, £2
Swan With Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN.
Call 01543 491570

JAZZ & BLUES

Jazzlines Free Gigs: Rob Barron Trio
Friday, 5pm
Symphony Hall Café Bar
B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

The Big Band Show With Five Star Swing
Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

National Scout And Guide Symphony Orchestra 40th Anniversary Concert
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £8 - £10
Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

OPEN MICS

Open Mic
Tue at 7.30pm, Free
The Drum, Aston on Carrant, Birmingham, B6 4UU.
Call 0121 333 2400

Open Mic Night
Mon at 12am, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.
Call 01384 374410

THEATRE

Carnival Of The Bizarre
Thu at 8pm
£15.00/ £16.00
Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Family Fun Festival 2015: Poppins With A Twist: Out Of The Box
Fri at 7pm, £6 - £8
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Family Fun Festival 2015: A Dragon's Tale
Fri at 2pm, £4 - £5
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Tres Tres Cabaret
Fri at 8pm, £15
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

The Three Little Pigs
Fri at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, Sat at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, Sun at 11am - 12pm, 1.30pm - 2.30pm, £12 - £14
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Barnum
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £19.50 - £48.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

The Bodyguard
Wed at 2pm, 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £18 - £49.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Motown's Greatest Hits: How Sweet It Is
Fri at 7.30 pm
£25.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS
Call 0844 871 3011

An Evening of Dirty Dancing: The Tribute Show
Sat at 7.30 pm
£24.90
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS
Call 0844 871 3011

The Wizard of Oz
Wed at 7.30pm,
Thur at 2.30pm, 7.30pm
£9.50/£10.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

COMEDY

Comedy Carousel & Real Food Canteen
Thu at 7pm - 11pm,
£5 - £19.50
The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

Manford's Comedy Club
Sat at 7.30pm - 11pm,
£12.50
Players Bar Birmingham, B1 2HG.
Call 0121 643 6817

FESTIVALS

Family Fun Festival 2015
Fri at 12am - 12am,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

TALKS

Beyond The Ballot: A People's History Of Democracy
Sat at 5pm, Free
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Freddie Flintoff: 2nd Innings
Mon at 7.30pm, £25 - £50
Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

ART GALLERIES

Birmingham's People and Change in the Inner-City
Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

The Festival Of Quilts
Thu at 10am - 5.30pm,
£6 - £50
The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Love Is Enough: William Morris And Andy Warhol
Fri at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm,
£3 - £17
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Colour, Light, Texture: Portraits By Matthew Smith And Frank Dobson
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 11am - 5pm, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS.
Call 0121 414 7333

Small Worlds
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Animal Architecture
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU.
Call 01902 552055

Robert Davies: Of Time And The Railway
Fri at 9am - 10pm, Sat at 9am - 10pm, Sun at 9am - 10pm, Mon at 9am - 10pm, Tue at 9am - 10pm, Wed at 9am - 10pm, Thu at 9am - 10pm, Free
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

FAMILY EVENTS

Contemporary Craft Markets
Sun at 11am - 5pm, Free
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Love Is Enough: Family Friday
Fri at 11am - 4pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Mini Museum
Wed at 10am - 3pm, £10.50
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Show In A Week Musical Theatre Workshops (Ages 6-11)
Thu at 10am - 3pm, £10.50
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Summer Holiday Family Fun
Fri at 12am, Sat at 12am, Sun at 12am, Mon at 12am, Tue at 12am, Wed at 12am, Thu at 12am,
Cadbury World, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 2LU.
Call 0844 880 7667

Lights, Camera, Action! Summer Holiday Activities
Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Thu at 10am - 5pm, £7.25 - £45
The Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, DY1 4SQ.
Call 0121 557 9643

Little Friends Baby and Toddler Group
Fri at 10am - 12pm, £3
The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 1TD.
Call 01543 877666

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Blockbuster show at the Hippodrome

One moment in time with Alexandra Burke and the cast of West End hit The Bodyguard Picture by Paul Coltas

AWARD-WINNING musical The Bodyguard is coming to the Birmingham Hippodrome for a month-long run from Wednesday.

The show, based on the Hollywood blockbuster that starred Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner, has extended its run until September 5 due to popular demand.

X-Factor's Alexandra Burke plays the leading role, Rachel Marron, in the show that features a host of Whitney Houston hits including One Moment in Time, Saving All My Love, I Wanna Dance with Somebody and I Will Always Love You.

Miss Burke took over the lead role from Wolverhampton's Beverley Knight when the show was a success in London's West End, winning Best New Musical at the Whatsonstage Awards.

Starring opposite her in the Costner role as Frank Farmer will be Stuart Reid from the West End production.

Meanwhile, at matinee performances the role of Rachel Marron will be played by Pop Idol finalist Zoe Birkett, who also plays the lead on August 21 and 22 evenings.

Tickets cost from £18 to £49.50, online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Big Bad role for Blue star

HE became one of the nation's favourite entertainers when he lined up on BBC TV's Strictly Come Dancing last autumn. But Blue singer Simon Webbe will feature in an altogether different role when he takes to the stage at Birmingham Town Hall until Sunday.

He will join stars from the worlds of pop, musical theatre and TV for a brand new family musical that's trotting into Birmingham before heading to London's West End.

Simon will huff and puff his way to the Town Hall for a new production of Stiles and Drewes' The 3 Little Pigs.

Simon is looking forward to the show because he has solid links with Birmingham, having gone to St Andrew's primary and Holy Trinity secondary school in Small Heath. He made his first ever stage performance at the Town Hall in a play called Days Of Our Childhood, and his is returning to the venue where it all started as the Big Bad Wolf in 3 Little Pigs.

He said: "I've been burning the candle at both ends. It's been a busy year with the Strictly tour, with the release of Blue's new album and now this. Strictly was massive and it was a great tour. The last time I did an arena tour was with The Big Reunion. To witness those big crowds and to be a part of that was amazing. To get that standing ovation every night was an amazing feeling."

But right now he's looking forward to treading the boards in 3 Little Pigs. "Everybody knows the story. This is the first time it's been brought alive by music and lyrics. The first read through I was in stitches. It's not taking it too seriously."

Top dramas coming to Midland stages

MAJOR dramas are coming to the West Midlands.

Birmingham Repertory Theatre leads the way with a bold look at our future monarch when Robert Powell plays King Charles III in Mike Bartlett's Olivier Award winning play in September. In October Meera Syal's novel Anita And Me, about an Asian girl growing up in a Staffordshire village, gets its stage debut with Mandeep Dhillon (from TV comedy Some Girls) in the lead role. Call 0121 236 4455.

The National Theatre's production of JB Priestly classic An Inspector Calls, directed by Billy Elliot's Stephen Daldry, is at Wolverhampton Grand in early February. Call 01902 429212.

Comedy and shows for children at halls

COMEDIANS and children's TV are among the line-up of attractions at Dudley and Stourbridge town halls this autumn.

At Dudley the season kicks off with pun-spinning comic Milton Jones on October 2. Veteran comedian Duggie Brown presents a matinee Good Old Days of Variety show on October 13.

Superslam American Wrestling returns on October 29.

At Stourbridge Town Hall children's shows include Tree Fu Tom on September 26, Sid Sloane from cbeebies in Sid's Show on October 27 and a version of Julia Donaldson's The Scarecrows' Wedding on November 21. Call (01384) 812812.

BGT opera singer in concert line-up

FIRST winner of Britain's Got Talent, opera singer Paul Potts, will be at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre as part of a line-up of new concerts with tickets on sale tomorrow (Friday).

The Port Talbot tenor will be in concert at the Lichfield Street venue with soprano Catriona Murray on Friday, October 16. Strictly Come Dancing pro Brendan Cole returns by popular demand with A Night To Remember on Friday, January 29. The nation's favourite Nancy, Jodie Prenger, stars in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's Tell Me On A Sunday on June 2, 2016. See grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Boston prawns were enormous – lobster-esque

Coast To Coast is in the centre of Birmingham

Sweet treat or just tasting too artificial

Menu features all classics including, of course, burgers

When it comes to burgers I left my heart back in San Francisco

HOLIDAYING in San Francisco and sinking my teeth into their incredible cheeseburgers at an In-N-Out Burger is a moment I'll always savour.

By Emily Bridgewater

And it was that memory I wished to recreate when I ordered the cheeseburger at Coast To Coast, an all-American diner bang in Birmingham's Broad Street.

It was our first visit to the restaurant and, on a drab Sunday afternoon, it was nice to be warmly welcomed by a friendly American waitress. For a moment at least, it felt like we were back in sunny California. We were directed to a booth, given menus and our drinks orders taken.

Coast To Coast has a huge dining area and they've pulled off the American sports bar feel with aplomb. There's a Cheers-style bar area, strategically placed screens showing Eurosport, and Aerosmith's Dude (Looks Like a Lady) blaring from the speakers. After a bit of a wait our drinks arrived and the waitress took our order. The menu features all-American classics from burgers and ribs to milkshakes.

I fancied the calamari to start but the other half insisted we go native and order the barbecue sharing board. At £16.95 it's not cheap so we expected a top-notch platter and what we got wasn't half bad.

The Boston prawns were enormous lobster-esque sized shellfish in a light batter. They were delish, particularly dipped in the Cajun spiced mayo, and I happily polished off the lot leaving the other half to make light work of the barbecue chicken wings.

"Plenty of meat on these," he said, appreciatively. The blue cheese chicken tenders were also juicy and packed with flavour but the sticky ribs weren't hot enough.

Fingers were licked, empties were cleared and we waited just long enough for our main courses. My heart sank at the sight of my cheeseburger. I was expecting a meal straight out of Diners, Drive-in and Dives, or Man v Food; I wanted something epic.

Overpriced

Plated simply, it came with no garnish other than a silver bucket of sweet potato fries and a pot of spicy ketchup dip. The burger itself looked a bit sad; the patty didn't fill the width of the bun making it look smaller and more shrivelled than it was. However, it tasted pretty good – not £11.95 worth and certainly not in the same league as In-N-Out Burger.

Sadly, the white-coloured cheese didn't really add much. The accompanying sweet potato fries were spot on. Mister Emily fancied a couple of different burgers so opted for the trio of sliders with regular fries. He said all the burgers were 'OK' without going overboard, also mentioning that – because of their size – the buns were a touch dry and over-toasted. At £13.95 we felt again it was a bit overpriced.

We ordered a dessert to share – the chocolate brownie with Chantilly cream and honeycomb ice cream. The dish fell short of the mark. Rather than the crumbly, gooey, indulgent brownie we'd expected, it was more of a microwaved sponge drenched in artificial 'chocolate-flavour' sauce.

We left half and settled the bill, which came to £57 including three soft drinks.

We felt let down by the food; the prices were too high for average-quality fare. Sadly, for me at least, when it comes to burgers, I've left my heart in San Francisco.

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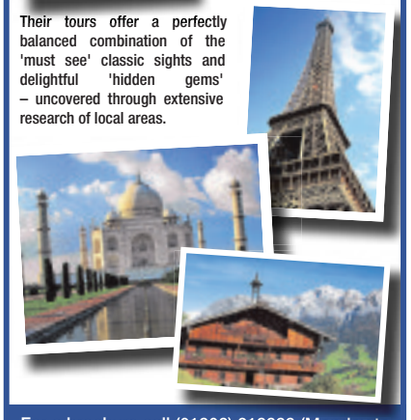

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CHOICE

Sunetra Sarker (right)

Casualty (BBC1, 9.10pm)
When a dad is given an ultimatum – move away with work or lose his job – Charlie helps him do the right thing for his daughter. A son attempts to break off his father's recent engagement to a younger fiancée and lands her in the Emergency Department, but Max is on hand to convince him to respect his father's decision. Meanwhile, Honey's plans to impress Ethan are ruined when Lily continues to pursue him, and Max and Zoe decide not to break the news of their engagement – but it soon gets out. William Beck, Chloe Howman, Sunetra Sarker, George Rainsford, Chelsee Healey, Amanda Mealing and Derek Thompson star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Box. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. **2.45** Live Women's FA Cup Football. Chelsea Ladies v Notts County Ladies (Kick-off 3.00pm). **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 BBC News.

6.15 Regional Programme.

6.25 Film: Raiders of the Lost Ark. (1981) Archaeologist Indiana Jones tries to locate the Ark of the Covenant before the Nazis get their hands on it. Steven Spielberg's action adventure, with Harrison Ford and Karen Allen.

8.15 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together and answer questions to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. Includes the weekend draw.

9.10 Casualty. When a dad is given an ultimatum – move away with work or lose his job – Charlie helps him do the right thing for his daughter. A son attempts to break off his father's recent engagement to a younger fiancée and lands her in the Emergency Department, but Max is on hand to convince him to respect his father's decision. Meanwhile, Honey's plans to impress Ethan are ruined when Lily continues to pursue him, and Max and Zoe decide not to break the news of their engagement – but it soon gets out.

10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes goes on a diet after her family's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. (R)

10.50 Not Going Out. Lee spends time in the bar with Toby worrying that the woman of his dreams is drifting farther away. Comedy, starring Lee Mack and Hugh Dennis. (R)

11.20 Film: Tropic Thunder. (2008) The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr.

1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: Tintin and the Mystery of the Golden Fleece. (1961) **8.05 Film:** The Maggie. (1954) **9.35 Film:** The Master of Ballantrae. (1953) **11.00** Animal Park. (R) **11.30** The Women's Football Show. **12.00** Escape to the Continent. **1.00** Athletics. **2.00** Golf: Women's British Open. Coverage of the third day at Trump Turnberry in South Ayrshire.

6.00 Cycling: Women's Grand Prix. Action from the RideLondon Grand Prix in central London, which saw a field of elite riders compete on a looping 1.3-mile circuit around St James's Park. Great Britain's Laura Trott won the inaugural staging of this race in 2013, while Italy's Giorgia Bronzini claimed a thrilling victory last year courtesy of a sprint finish for the line.

7.00 Proms Extra. Katie Derham looks at the past week of the proms, including Holst's The Planets and Mozart's last-ever symphony. Plus, percussionist Colin Currie performs exclusively in the studio.

7.40 Edwardian Farm. Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn set sail on a fishing trip, steering a wind-powered vessel, casting a net and mastering sea shanties. Meanwhile, Ruth Goodman holds a seance. (R)

8.40 Dad's Army. The men head off for a weekend at a training camp, but arrive late and hungry after Mainwaring's map-reading skills are found to be somewhat lacking. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R)

9.10 First Light. Docu-drama based on the personal memoirs of Geoffrey Wellum, a young RAF pilot who fought in the Battle of Britain in 1940 with the legendary 92 Squadron. His experiences in combat serve as intense rites of passage, but as time goes by it becomes clear that the price of victory can often be an unbearable loss. Starring Sam Heughan. (R)

10.30 Mock the Week. Dara O Briain presents a special compilation show featuring previously unbroadcast material, out-takes and favourite bits from the recent series of the satirical comedy quiz. (R)

11.00 Film: Ill Manors. (2012) Premiere. Drama, with Riz Ahmed, Nick Sagar and Keith Coggins.

12.55 Film: The Quatermass Xperiment. (1955) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News. **12.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **2.35** The Chase. (R) **3.30** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **4.15** Tipping Point. (R) **5.15** Catchphrase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Film: Mamma Mia! (2008) A former member of a singing trio, now running a hotel on a Greek island, is reunited with her old bandmates for her daughter's wedding – but is surprised when three of her old flames also show up unexpectedly. The three men have been invited by the bride, who wants to find out which one of them is her father. Musical comedy, with a soundtrack of Abba songs, starring Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Julie Walters, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgard and Amanda Seyfried.

8.30 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Comedian Katherine Ryan and retired footballer Fabrice Muamba take on The Cube in an attempt to win a £250,000 jackpot for charity.

9.35 The Nation's Favourite Queen Song. The stories behind the legendary rock band's 20 greatest hits, as decided by the public. This countdown, narrated by Matt Lucas, features in-depth interviews with Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor, celebrity fans including Katy Perry, Tony Hadley, Tom Fletcher, Noddy Holder and Tony Iommi, and some of those who were closest to singer Freddie Mercury. From Bohemian Rhapsody to We Are the Champions, Don't Stop Me Now to We Will Rock You, there are almost too many classics to choose from, but which one will take the top spot? (R)

11.00 ITV News; Weather.

11.15 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Ejector Seat. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.20 How I Met Your Mother. **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** Rude(ish) Tube. **1.30** Glorious Goodwood: Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from the Glorious Goodwood festival and Newmarket. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. The final dinner party in Suffolk is hosted by anti-social behaviour officer Rachel, who hopes to win over her guests with an evening of comfort food and a few tricks up her sleeve. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Homes by the Sea. Architectural designer Charlie Luxton explores properties on the Kent and Sussex coasts, beginning at a home inspired by the seafront properties of Australia in Camber Sands. He also visits a home made from a converted railway carriage in Dungeness, a Martello tower in Dymchurch, and two properties in the town of Brighton.

8.00 Walking Through History: Nazi Occupation – Channel Islands. Tony Robinson heads to Guernsey and Jersey to tell the story of the islands' surrender to Nazi Germany during the Second World War. (R)

9.00 Film: The Inbetweeners Movie. (2011) Awkward teenagers Simon, Will, Jay and Neil plan a holiday to the Greek island of Crete after they finish their exams, hoping to experience drink, sex and debauchery beyond their wildest dreams. However, things do not quite work out as planned. Comedy based on the TV series, with Joe Thomas, Simon Bird, James Buckley and Blake Harrison.

11.00 Film: This Means War. (2012) Two secret agents fall in love with the same woman and use their talents to sabotage each other's chances of romance. Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon.

12.50 The Last Leg. (R) **1.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.55** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R) **4.55** You Deserve This House. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **11.35** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.30** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.30 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.00** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. An insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of people who owe money, their creditors and those who collect the payments. High court eviction officer Kevin Stokes faces a physical assault, while Paul Bohill and his team deal with a difficult case involving a mother and daughter who are about to be left out on the street with nowhere to go. Last in the series. (R)

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the fourth day's play in the Third Ashes Test at Edgbaston. Presented by Mark Nicholas.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Transporter: The Series. Frank is hired to transport a stolen human heart for a crime kingpin seeking a suitable donor for his terminally ill son. But he is is forced to weigh the worth of a human life when he finds out that the heart was intended for a dying boy in hospital. Previously seen on Spike.

9.00 Tut. Part one of two. Historical epic chronicling pharaoh Tutankhamun's efforts to rule over his chaotic empire. With Egypt controlled by his advisor Ay, army leader General Horemheb and double-dealing high priest Amun, the 19-year-old king is eager to get to know the people whom he will soon be ruling. He sneaks out to Thebes, where he comes to the rescue of beautiful village girl Suhad, and is recruited into a band planning to fight the troublesome Mitanni. Starring Avan Jogia, Ben Kingsley and Kylie Bunbury.

11.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Police officers use CCTV to monitor Soho's 100,000 nightly visitors, while the air support unit is called in when an armed gang goes on the rampage through Lambeth. (R)

12.10 SuperCasino. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes **7.15** Don't Tell the Bride **8.15 Film:** Little Fockers (2010) **9.45** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.15** Family Guy **1.30** People Just Do Nothing **2.00** Some Girls **3.30** Young, Welsh and Pretty Skint **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear **8.00** Horizon: The Secret Life of the Cat **9.00** The Young Montalbano **11.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **12.30** Sings Musicals **1.30** Horizon: The Secret Life of the Cat **2.30** Natural World: The Real Jungle Book Bear **3.30** Close

ITV2

11.05 Take Me Out **12.05** Catchphrase **12.50** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.20 Film:** Beethoven (1991) **3.05 Film:** Scooby-Doo (2002) **4.50 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **7.10 Film:** Johnny English (2003) **9.00 Film:** Troy (2004) **12.10 Film:** Romy and Michele's High School Reunion (1997) **2.00** Fake Reaction **2.35** Teleshopping **5.35** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 Agatha Christie's Marple **1.45** Wycliffe **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00 Film:** Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **12.00** Wire in the Blood **1.30** Rising Damp **1.55** Movies Now **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 Pawn Stars **1.15 Film:** No Name on the Bullet (1959) **2.50 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **5.00** Storage Wars **6.00** Storage Wars: New York **7.00** Storage Wars: Texas **8.00 Film:** Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.50 Film:** US Marshals (1998) **12.25 Film:** Midnight Run (1988) **2.35** Hogan's Heroes **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Melissa & Joey **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.30** How I Met Your Mother **2.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Adjustment Bureau (2011) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.40** Rude Tube: Ultimate Stunts **1.45** Virtually Famous **2.30** How I Met Your Mother **3.15** Rules of Engagement **4.05** The Cleveland Show **4.25** Baby Daddy

Film4

1.00 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) **3.20** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **5.10** Marmaduke (2010) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Chronicle (2012) **10.40** Dredd (2012) **12.30** Shutter (2008) **2.10** Strange Wilderness (2008)

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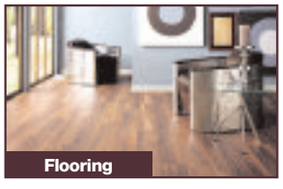

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CHOICE

David Walliams

Partners in Crime (BBC1, 9pm)

Part two of three. Tommy searches the backrooms of Brown's shadowy hideout for any sign of Jane, but discovers he will need to raise £1,000 to maintain his place in the gang. Tuppence goes undercover as Rita's maid, and discovers that she has received a mysterious package from Brown. The parcel is kept locked up and out of sight, but Tuppence is determined to find out what it contains. She also discovers that one of the diva's friends is an agent working for Carter, who continues to obstruct the couple's investigation. David Walliams, Jessica Raine, James Fleet, Alice Krige, Matthew Steer, Clarke Peters, Paul Brennen and Madeline Appiah star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Songs of Praise. **1.50** Nigel Slater: Eating Together. (R) **2.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.05** Cycling: RideLondon. The RideLondon-Surrey Classic.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. A special edition devoted to sheep, in which Joe Crowley travels to an upland farm in the Yorkshire Dales where he helps out with the shearing, and visits a dairy in Thirsk producing feta cheese from ewe's milk. Anita Rani investigates the mutton market in Hereford and meets an artisan felt worker in Wales, and Tom Heap looks into the falling prices of lambs. Plus, Adam Henson reports on the breaking up of a herd of fell ponies. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and art expert Philip Mould investigate the complex and controversial stories surrounding the origins of supposedly valuable works of art from around the world, discovering how to identify the handiwork of master forgers and revealing the bitter battles that occur in the seemingly genteel art world. (R)

9.00 Partners in Crime. Part two of three. Tommy searches the backrooms of Brown's shadowy hideout for any sign of Jane, but discovers he will need to raise £1,000 to maintain his place in the gang. Tuppence goes undercover as Rita's maid, and discovers that she has received a mysterious package from Brown. The parcel is kept locked up and out of sight, but Tuppence is determined to find out what it contains. She also discovers that one of the diva's friends is an agent working for Carter, who continues to obstruct the couple's investigation.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day: Community Shield Highlights. Chelsea v Arsenal. Action from the curtain-raiser to the English top-flight campaign.

11.15 Don't Tell the Bride. (R)

12.15 Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) **7.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.00** Cycling: RideLondon. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** The Box. (R) **12.30** The Box. (R) **1.00** Alex Polizzi: Chefs on Trial. (R) **2.00** Golf: Women's British Open.

6.00 Hair. The six remaining contestants create a fantasy style in the freestyle challenge, before three have to tackle the technique of spiral curls in the Eliminator. (R)

6.30 Hair. The five quarter-finalists create scary styles for London Dungeon staff, before coming up with a design for the launch of a new character. (R)

7.00 Locomotion: Dan Snow's History of Railways. The historian and broadcaster examines the impact the railway had on London in the late 1830s, marking the start of a truly national network. (R)

8.00 Dragons' Den. The entrepreneurs cast their eyes over an ecologist's germ-fighting gadget and a business making crisps, while another contestant clashes with the dragons.

9.00 Odyssey. Odelle tries to get a message to a reporter, but it is intercepted by Majors. Peter recruits two hackers, Harrison is arrested, and Ron starts to suspect his wife is alive.

9.45 The Javone Prince Show. Javone presents more comedy sketches and stand-up, featuring a street magician and poet-in-residence Dr Afrika.

10.15 Family Guy. Brian and Peter go on a mission to find a new Thanksgiving turkey.

10.35 Family Guy. Lois tires of Peter's disappointing performances in the bedroom.

10.55 Family Guy. Three traditional fairy tales – Jack and the Beanstalk, Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella – are given a Quahog spin on the original stories.

11.20 Film: Dead Poets Society. (1989) A teacher at a staid New England school in the 1950s raises eyebrows by encouraging his pupils to live life beyond their expectations. Drama, with Robin Williams and Ethan Hawke.

1.20 Film: X the Unknown. (1956) **2.40** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.35** Long Lost Family: What Happened Next. (R) **2.35** The Unforgettable Joan Sims. (R) **3.05** The Chase. (R) **4.05 Film:** The Man in the Iron Mask. (1998) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

6.35 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Nature Nuts with Julian Clary. New series. The comedian meets wildlife devotees around Britain, and enlists the help of a nature documentary crew to help them record footage of their favourite animals. In the first episode, Julian meets a woman who takes care of thousands of injured hedgehogs and helps her check up on a former patient, uses cameras that can see by moonlight to observe an elusive family of badgers, and meets two "otter spotters".

8.00 Midsomer Murders. Return of the long-running mystery drama, starring Neil Dudgeon and Gwilym Lee. At the Luxton Deeping Crime Festival, the unveiling of a newly discovered novel by deceased Midsomer crime writer George Summersbee is jeopardised when the manuscript is stolen and local artist Suzie Colebrooke is electrocuted by a booby-trapped roulette wheel. Can new father Barnaby untangle a web of jealousy and obsession to find the killer? With Fiona Dolman, Tamzin Malleson and Georgia Taylor. (R)

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Brits Behind Bars. With thousands of UK citizens currently held in jails around the world, this documentary focuses on the moving cases of British overseas prisoners. (R)

11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Michael Flatley. The creator of Riverdance and Lord of the Dance joins Piers for a frank interview reflecting on his life and career, and his reputation as an egomaniac. (R)

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Caterham Motorsport. **7.30** National Paralympic Day. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **3.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **5.40** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Film: The Three Musketeers. (2011) A hot-headed swordsman sets off to join the King of France's royal guard, and falls in with a trio of former members who have fallen into disgrace. They join forces to defeat a plot to overthrow the king by an English lord who has built a deadly airship. Swashbuckling adventure, with Logan Lerman, Milla Jovovich, Matthew Macfadyen, Ray Stevenson and Luke Evans.

8.00 Experimental. Buddy Munro goes flying off a ramp using an engine-powered glider, and also uses jet propulsion to ski uphill on a trip to the Czech Republic's Krkonose Mountains. Tim Shaw checks out videos of people trying to do the splits in mid-air and finds out what this does to the human body, and tries out various gadgets to build a working hoverboard.

9.00 Humans. The fugitive synths are held prisoner in Hobb's facility, as he tries to extract the secrets of creating living artificial intelligence that have been programmed into their brains. However, he discovers a vital piece of the puzzle is still missing – and not even Leo knows where it can be found. Laura and her devastated family come to realise how much Mia means to them, and resolve to rescue her and her friends from a life of captivity. Conclusion of the sci-fi drama, starring Gemma Chan and Katherine Parkinson. Last in the series.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sean Lock teams up with Andrew Flintoff to compete against guest captain Bill Bailey and team-mate Roisin Conaty in the comedy panel quiz show mash-up. Presented by Jimmy Carr. (R)

11.05 Film: The Guard. (2011)

12.55 Channel 4 Comedy Gala 2015: Best Bits. (R) **1.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. **7.45** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.35** Jelly Jamm. (R) **8.50** LazyTown. (R) **9.15** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.45** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.20** Access. **10.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.10 Film:** White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf. (1994) Adventure sequel, starring Scott Bairstow. **3.15 Film:** The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep. (2007) Children's fantasy adventure, starring Alex Etel. **5.20 Film:** Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs. (2009) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Hader.

7.00 Cricket on 5. England v Australia. Highlights of the fifth and final day's play in the Third Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Police Interceptors Unleashed. PC Jason Graves attempts to bring order to chaos when an argument turns aggressive, and the interceptors are forced to use strong-arm tactics to bring a football hooligan under control. Elsewhere, an encounter with the police leaves a shoplifter speechless, and a drink-driver puts other people in a potentially explosive situation. Previously seen on Spike.

9.00 Tut. Conclusion of the two-part historical epic. Tut's rule is threatened when a mysterious illness sweeps the kingdom, leaving him with no army to fight off the Mitanni. He opts to lead a small force of soldiers to infiltrate the enemy stronghold and bring them down from within, but while he is leading the raid, a new conflict erupts in his homeland.

11.35 Secrets of the Egyptian Pyramids. Steve Burrows leads a team investigating some of the world's greatest engineering achievements, beginning with four different ancient Egyptian pyramids. (R)

12.35 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. **3.10** Under the Dome. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Don't Tell the Bride **8.00 Film:** Streetdance (2010) **9.30** Top Gear: Polar Challenge **10.35** Live at the Apollo **11.20** Family Guy **12.05** American Dad! **12.25** Family Guy **12.50** People Just Do Nothing **1.20** The Unbreakables: Life and Love on Disability Campus **2.15** The Boy Who Wants His Leg Cut Off **3.15** People Just Do Nothing **3.45** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **4.00** Close

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.15** Wild Scotland **8.30** Brushing Up On – British Bridges **9.00** The Modern Age of The Coach **10.00** Timeshift: Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car **11.00** Sound of Song **2.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **3.30** Close

ITV2

1.10 The Hot Desk: Ella Eyre **1.20 Film:** Dragonheart (1996) **3.25 Film:** Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.10 Film:** Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **7.00 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **9.00 Film:** The Shawshank Redemption (1994) **11.50** Safeword **12.35** Fake Reaction **1.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.45 Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis (1975) **1.50 Film:** Mutiny on the Buses (1972) **3.40** Goodnight Mister Tom **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00 Film:** Finding Neverland (2004) **10.10** Birds of a Feather **10.35** Northern Lights **11.40 Film:** Clockwise (1986) **1.35** Blue Murder **3.15** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.10 Pawn Stars **1.35 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **3.40 Film:** No Name on the Bullet (1959) **5.20 Film:** Ice Cold in Alex (1958) **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** Assassins (1995) **11.45 Film:** The Wild Bunch (1969) **2.30** Hogan's Heroes **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** The Big Bang Theory – E4's Top 20 **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.55 Film:** Mirror Mirror (2012) **9.00** Rude Tube **10.00** Gogglebox **11.40 Film:** From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) **1.55** Tattoo Fixers **2.50** The Cleveland Show **3.10** Baby Daddy **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4

1.00 Bride Wars (2009) **2.40** The Simpsons Movie (2007) **4.25** The Golden Compass (2007) **6.35** Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) **9.00** Men in Black II (2002) **10.45** Kick-Ass (2010) **1.00** Happy-Go-Lucky (2008) **3.25** Close

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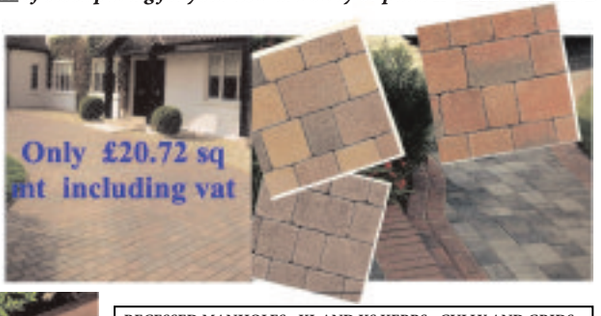

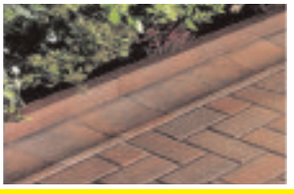

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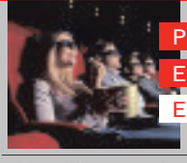

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

TUESDAY
Then She Found Me, BBC1, 11.35pm
A New York teacher faces a mid-life crisis after her husband leaves her and her adoptive mother dies. To confuse matters further, she embarks on a relationship with the father of one of her students at the same time as her birth mother. Comedy drama, starring Helen Hunt. (2007

WEDNESDAY
Mona Lisa Smile, Channel 4, 2.30am
A conservative 1950s girls' school receives an unconventional addition to its teaching staff in the form of a free-spirited, bohemian art historian. Unfortunately, her fellow teachers frown on her newfangled ideas, while most of the students have no greater ambition in life than landing a rich husband. Drama, starring Julia Roberts. (2003)

Mona Lisa Smile, Wednesday, Channel 4, 2.30am

THURSDAY
Gracie's Choice, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A caring teenager has looked after her younger brothers and sister all their lives, while their violent, alcoholic mother is unable to cope. When their parent's self-destructive behaviour goes too far, she campaigns to legally adopt her siblings, while also striving to complete her education. Fact-based drama, starring Kristen Bell. (2004)

FRIDAY
Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, BBC1, 11.15pm
An idealistic but obsessive scientist builds a living creature from the body parts of corpses, then abandons his creation to its fate. However, the monster survives, and tracks his creator down to make a sinister request. Gothic horror, directed by and starring Kenneth Branagh. (1994)

Drastic action to save artificial intelligence

Gadgets. We love them, don't we? From the humble can opener to something as hi-tech as a top-of-the-range mobile phone or tablet device, all our lives have been touched in some way by innovations.

Gadgets exist to make things easier, to allow us more leisure time than ever before and take away the stress or discomfort of annoying jobs.

A synthetic being resembling a human who can do all the tasks we can, but never complains or gets tired, is surely the ultimate tool. In Humans, we have seen them at work, but also learnt that not all of them are what they seem.

The drama has proved to be compelling stuff. Based on a Swedish TV series, it is set in a parallel universe, one that looks very much like our own, but with these synthetic people – or synths, as they are known – lending a hand.

At the centre of the story is Anita, a beautiful android who is not quite as she seems.

She's played by Gemma Chan, the programme's breakout star.

"I was attracted to playing Anita because I like a challenge," says the actress. "She is a very complex multi-layered character but also, obviously, a character that isn't human.

"I read the scripts and loved them. Reading the first three, I just wanted to read more. I hadn't read anything like it and I'd never seen the subject of artificial intelligence approached in this way before. So that for me was really refreshing and it raised a lot of questions and lots of interesting themes."

Playing a glorified robot had its difficulties, including learning how to move.

"We have had a brilliant movement director called Dan O'Neill who has guided us from the start," explains Gemma. "Before we started filming we did a few weeks of what we called 'Synth School'. He really wanted a uniform language of movement for the synths to have, so every actor who played a synth had to go through it.

"Synths are basically machines and everything that they do is going to use up energy or battery power, so everything they do has to have an economy. As an actor, it was about finding ways to do things that are actually very counter intuitive to how we would traditionally do things: so it was really learning all the basics, how to stand up, sit down, walk, turn a corner."

She adds: "The things that sound so easy but actually you have to really pare back your physicality and do it in the most economic way. It's really hard actually when you realise how many physical ticks you have and you have to kind of strip those back."

But, as regular viewers will already know, Anita isn't quite what she seems. Trapped inside her body is Mia, who has the human capability to feel emotions.

The final episode of the series sees Laura and the rest of the Hawkins family realise how much Mia means to them before putting their own lives on the line to save her and the rest of the 'human' synths from Hobbs.

Will they succeed, or is another twist in the tale – and, perhaps, a second series, on the horizon? Only time will tell.

Katherine Parkinson stars in Humans, Sunday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Britain at the Bookies
BBC1, 9pm
Is Britain going to the dogs? Well if you take the question literally, the answer is probably 'not as much as we used to.' Takings are down for independent Romford greyhound bookie Doug Tyler, whose family have been in the business for over 60 years, as more and more of his punters now bet online and on other sports like football. Meanwhile, in Slough, betting giant Coral is opening a new shop. Although the 30 shops closed last year, Coral plans to open 40 new ones in locations that promise to be more profitable. But their expansion plans aren't without their critics, and as they try to open a new branch in Hayes, Middlesex, near a YMCA, local opposition rallies against the plan. Also, as political pressure about the dangers of gambling addiction mount, the last episode explores how we arrived at our 24/7 betting culture, and what the future holds.

Travel Guides
ITV, 9pm
New series. Members of five British households review popular holiday destinations, giving their opinions on everything from the accommodation to the food and activities, with the first edition featuring their views on Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Burnley bar owner Linda and her painter husband Pete find not only the hotels but their prices 'out of this world', model Riah can't understand why Arabic women have to cover up, and hairdressers Craig and Stuart Chapman Blackwell are uncomfortable about travelling to a country where it's illegal to be gay. Johnny Vegas narrates.

TUESDAY
New Tricks
BBC1, 9pm
New series. Part one of two. As the detective drama returns, Gerry is spooked by the discovery of UCOS's latest victim - a cop, whose body has lain untouched under a basement for 30 years. As accusations of police corruption and underhand dealings begin to surface, Gerry has to face up to some skeletons in his own closet and it's a race against time for the team to help before his murky past catches up with him. While babysitting his grandson, Gerry becomes convinced that only he holds the key to the investigation and goes Awol to uncover the truth. Starring Denis Lawson, Nicholas Lyndhurst, Tamzin Outhwaite, Dennis Waterman, Anthony Calf and Tracy-Ann Oberman.

WEDNESDAY
The Great British Bake Off
BBC1, 8pm
New series. Twelve contestants begin the battle to be named Britain's best amateur baker, facing tasks devised by judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, who have created 30 new challenges to test their baking skills and creativity. Their first signature challenge is to make a Madeira cake, before they attempt to bake a frosted walnut cake in the technical challenge. Day two of the contest sees the contestants going all out to try and impress the judges with their first showstopper, the Black Forest gateau. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present. The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice is on Friday on BBC2 at 9pm.

BBQ Champ, Friday, ITV, 9pm

THURSDAY
Flockstars
ITV, 8.30pm
Gabby Logan hosts this search to find Britain's best celebrity sheep-herder, as eight famous faces, including DJ Tony Blackburn, former Eternal singer Kelle Bryan, Corrie star Wendi Peters and Paralympian Lee Pearson, are paired with professional sheepdogs for a series of knockout trials testing skill, technique and discipline. Next to face the challenge are N-Dubz singer Fazer and Birds of a Feather actress Lesley Joseph, who are given intensive training before guiding Jack and Gyp around the course.

FRIDAY
BBQ Champ
ITV, 9pm
Myleene Klass presents the second round of the contest as the seven remaining contestants take on the King of the Kebab challenge. South London youth worker Solomon tries to impress judges Adam Richman and Mark Blatchford with his spicy chicken kebab, while Gary creates an ambitious Fruits de Mer concoction and Nicola's trio of fish kebab risks sinking without trace. Later, a Seaside Sizzler challenge sees the contestants tasked to cook for families on the beach.

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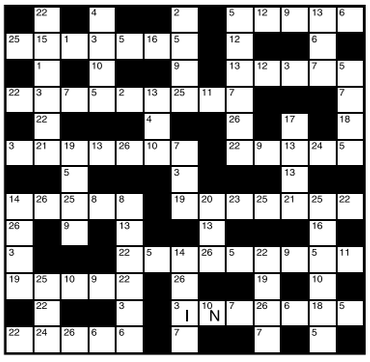
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 30, 2015

BRAIN GYM No.335

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3 I	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10 N	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	R	D	G	X	T	F	H	S	N	L	K	P
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	Y	Z	B	W	I	V	Q	A	U	M	O	C

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

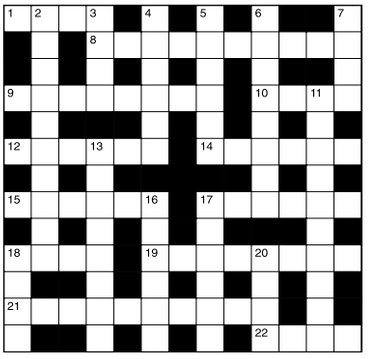
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Come a cropper in the cropping season? (4)
8. Apropos the sign of possession... (10)
9. ... be seen again to gather fruit (8)
10. Shed players (4)
12. It's obvious father can camp (6)
14. Fearsome things almost - they can't be right! (6)
15. Didn't get the desired husband? (6)
17. Despises ship holding grain (6)
18. The weather they have at Spithead at present (4)
19. Flowers, perhaps (8)
21. Failed to notice being in somebody's view (10)
22. Favourites return at the interval (4)

Down

2. Later change a can with nothing in it for a change (10)
3. The French politician throws light on things (4)
4. Powerful ring given for article in 12 (6)
5. Averts disaster only to die of hunger (6)
6. Entertainment with nothing but a musical composition (8)
7. Master the rhythm? (4)
11. A season in leap-year, no doubt (10)
13. Tread was pointing to the rising sun (8)
16. It may mean no treat when he treats! (6)
17. Match action taken by workers (6)
18. Tops up here (4)
20. The last things to associate with odds (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Girl (4)
8. Ineffective (10)
9. Footpath (8)
10. Not new (4)
12. Amuse (6)
14. Marauder (6)
15. Put in (6)
17. Invent (6)
18. Liability (4)
19. Capsize (8)
21. Confederate (10)
22. Humble (4)

Down

2. Disagreeing (2,8)
3. Certain (4)
4. Mourn (6)
5. Raillery (6)
6. Light up (8)
7. Old (4)
11. Voters (10)
13. Building (6)
16. Company (6)
17. Believe (6)
18. Do business (4)
20. Pour (4)

Sudoku

		8			6		1	4
	9					7	6	
		1		5	9	3		
9		7					8	
5			9	4				2
	2					5		9
		5	3	9				1
	6	4			5	8		
	3		4			2		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	9	8	2	5	6	1	3	7
2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5	4
5	3	1	7	9	4	2	6	8
8	2	4	5	6	7	3	9	1
7	1	3	8	2	9	6	4	5
6	5	9	4	3	1	8	7	2
1	6	5	3	7	8	4	2	9
9	4	7	6	1	2	5	8	3
3	8	2	9	4	5	7	1	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Image; 8 Ironing; 9 Handsaw; 10 Locum; 12 Large print; 15 Rolling sea; 18 Eight; 19 Ordinal; 21 Find out; 22 Amiss. Down: 1 Light verse; 2 Maine; 3 Pens; 4 Bigwig; 5 Collapse; 6 Circuit; 11 Metabolism; 13 Aviation; 14 Elegant; 16 Ghosts; 17 Anvil; 20 Drag. QUICK - Across: 7 Touch; 8 Actions; 9 Tuneful; 10 Rider; 12 Settlement; 15 Evanescent; 18 Yearn; 19 Uniform; 21 Classic; 22 Learn. Down: 1 Stationery; 2 Funny; 3 Chef; 4 Tablet; 5 Sturgeon; 6 Soldier; 11 Retirement; 13 Evenness; 14 Caravan; 16 Crutch; 17 Focal; 20 Idle.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What nationality was detective writer Georges Simenon?
2. In what year was the St. Valentine's Day massacre?
3. What type of variety act was made popular by Edgar Bergen and Ray Alan?
4. Who was born first, Yoko Ono or John Lennon?
5. With which branch of science do you associate Copernicus?
6. Which agricultural pioneer invented the seed drill?
7. What was the real surname of American black muslim leader Malcolm X?
8. From which country did the U.S. buy Florida?
9. Of which country was Juan Peron the president?
10. What does RADAR stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Violin; 2 22; 3 Franklin D Roosevelt; 4 Hiram Maxim; 5 New Zealand; 6 Capability; 7 Ruritania; 8 1983; 9 The first men's and women's public flushing lavatories; 10 Escoffier.

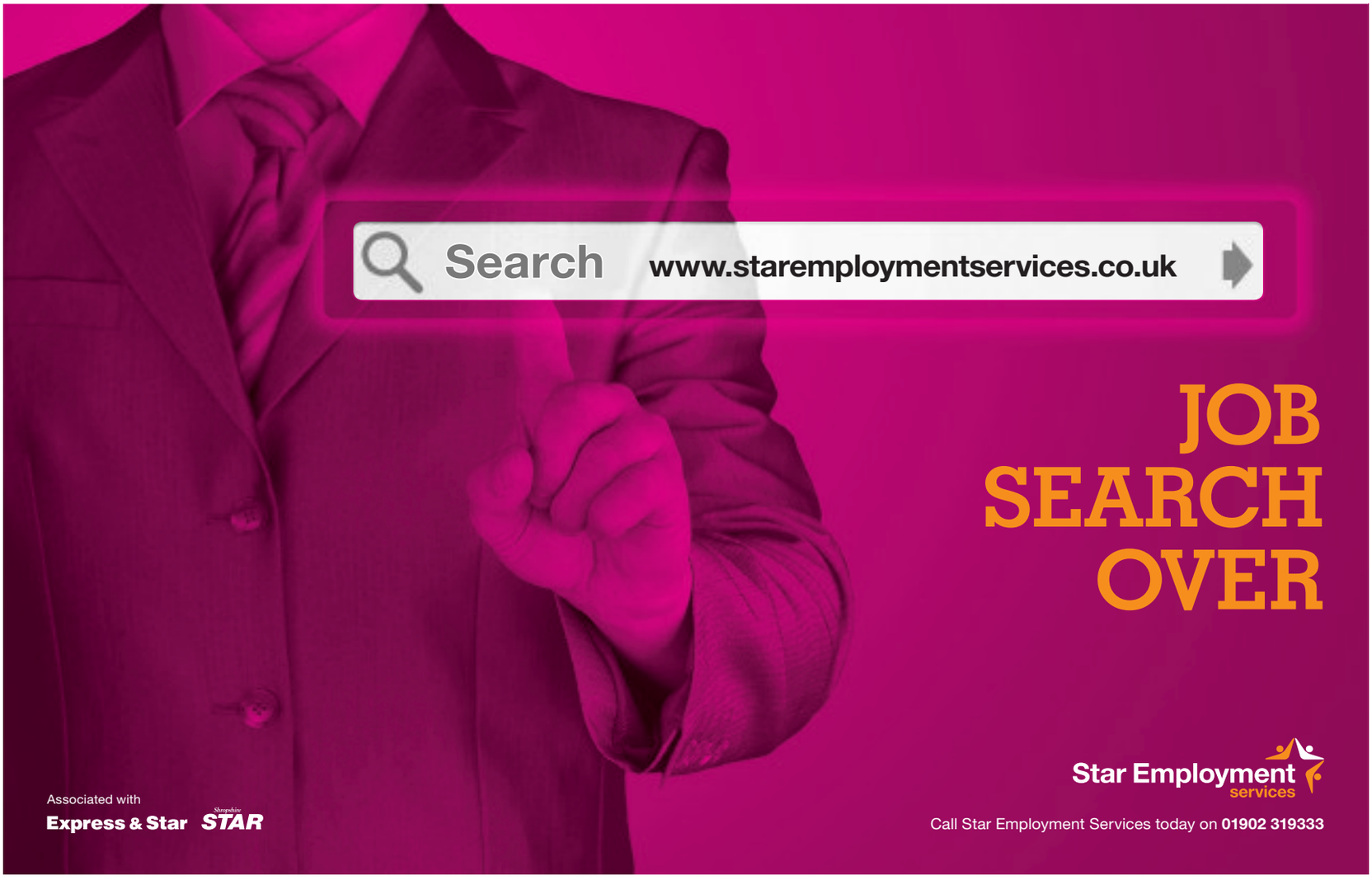
Niner: HYPOCRITE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

835 gives an animal,
91529 gives a large bird,
5362745 gives a baby bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Three-bedroomed family home is in a popular area

THIS beautifully presented home on Westfield Road, Halesowen, is situated in a popular area. Close to amenities, it is for sale through Hicks Hadley estate agent at £120,000.

The ground floor comprises of an entrance hallway, living/dining room, utility room with plumbing for a washing machine, and a re-fitted kitchen with some integrated appliances. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a modern family bathroom with a panelled bath that has a shower over.

Outside is a garden with paved and lawned areas plus a shed.

To the front of the property is a paved driveway, a lawn and a gate providing side access.

For further information visit www.hickshadley.com or contact 0121 585 6667.

House could be ideal for first-time buyers

THIS property on Thorns Road, Brierley Hill, is close to Stourbridge and the Merry Hill shopping centre. It is for sale through Select Property Management at £132,500 with no upward chain.

The ground floor comprises of a porch, hallway, two reception rooms and a kitchen with splash back tiles and plumbing for a dishwasher. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with a white suite including a panelled bath with wall-mounted shower over. There is a large rear garden and a bricked driveway for off-road parking at the front.

For further information on this property visit www.selectsalesandlettings.com or contact (01384) 277701.

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DOWNING HOUSE, CATHOLIC LANE £349,950
SEDGLEY
•Modern detached house
•Four bedrooms
•Large breakfast kitchen
•Utility room, ensuite shower room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

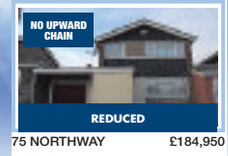
LAND ADJOINING 78 COCHRANE ROAD O/A £250,000
HOLLY HALL
•Level rectangular plot
•Outline planning consent for:
•Two pairs of three bedroom semi detached houses and
•A terrace of three, three bedroom houses
•SEDGLEY OFFICE

7 CHARNWOOD AVENUE O/A £250,000
SEDGLEY
•Detached bungalow with three bedrooms
•Enjoying a wide plot at the head of a cul de sac
•'L' shaped living room comprising living area & dining area
•Tandem garage with further garage, attractive gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

LAND ADJOINING 12 KETTLESBANK ROAD O/A £250,000
GORNAL WOOD
•Residential development site
•Outline planning permission
•Planning application P13/1140
•Situated within an established residential area
•SEDGLEY OFFICE

4 ELMWOOD RISE £249,950
SEDGLEY
•Detached house with four bedrooms
•En suite shower room off bedroom one
•Extended breakfast kitchen, utility room
•Private rear garden with excellent views
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING C

12 CHEVENING CLOSE O/A £189,950
SEDGLEY
•Modern detached bungalow
•Two bedrooms, shower room
•Enviable position at head of cul de sac
•Pleasantly landscaped gardens
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D



75 NORTHWAY £184,950
SEDGLEY
•Link detached house
•Well maintained & presented
•Three bedrooms
•Private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

54 MOUNT ROAD £179,950
LANESFIELD
•Traditional detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Improved & extended
•Deceptive accommodation
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

601 BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD O/A £175,000
COSELEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Extended & improved
•Attractively presented
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC C

53 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD £169,950
SEDGLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Conservatory
•Ample off street parking
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING E

3 HIMLEY AVENUE £165,000
DUDLEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Sitting room/bedroom four
•Separate lounge & dining room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

11 SUMMERHILL ROAD £155,000
COSELEY
•Detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Large bathroom
•Attractive rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

63 CINDER ROAD O/A £149,950
GORNAL
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•'L' shaped lounge/dining room
•Shower room
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

55A SPRING ROAD £139,950
LANESFIELD
•Modern three bedroom detached house
•Extended, well maintained & attractively presented
•Situated in a pleasant cul-de-sac location
•Attached garage & easily maintained private rear garden
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

352 HIMLEY ROAD O/A £139,950
GORNAL WOOD
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•In need of updating works
•Gas central heating & double glazing
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING TBC

183 SEDGLEY ROAD O/A £129,950
WOODSETTON
•Modern semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Rear driveway & garage
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

2A LANGLEY AVENUE O/A £124,950
COSELEY
•Semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Extended kitchen
•Access to rear driveway
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING F

21 HALL STREET O/A £119,500
CRADLEY HEATH
•Modern semi detached house
•Three bedrooms
•Well proportioned accommodation
•Gas central heating
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

64 HIMLEY ROAD £89,950
DUDLEY
•Terraced house
•Three bedrooms
•Ground floor bathroom
•Suitable for investor
•SEDGLEY OFFICE-EPC RATING D

BUILDING PLOT ADJOINING 54 DEEPDALE LANE O/A £52,500
LOWER GORNAL
•Individual building plot
•Outline planning permission
•Excellent views to the rear
•Ideal for small developer or a self build project
•SEDGLEY OFFICE

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SEDGLEY, Wolverhampton Road

Fantastically presented detached property set in highly desirable area of Sedgley. This EXTENDED family home benefits from uPVC double glazing, gas central heating, FOUR BEDROOMS, two good-sized reception rooms, beautifully presented breakfast-kitchen, utility, guest W/C, conservatory, stunning family bathroom, en suite shower room to bedroom three Garage, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £284,950

TIPTON, Woodcroft Avenue

EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached upon WIDE PLOT at head of cul de sac in favoured district comprising; entrance vestibule, hall, store, 18'8" through lounge, dining room, wet/'cellarette', large 17' breakfast kitchen and further utility room.Three bedrooms, shower room (former bathroom). Large double garage, extensive gardens. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £235,000

LOWER GORNAL, Haslingden Crescent

NO UPWARD CHAIN. RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED! THREE DOUBLE BEDROOM detached by David Wilson Homes with panoramic distant views. Stylish gas centrally heated, double glazed accommodation provides hall, cloakroom, breakfast kitchen, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (with en-suite to principal bedroom), bathroom. Garage, garden. EPC C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £212,000

TIPTON, Oxford Way (close to Foxyards)

SPACIOUS, Freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached in favoured 'Foxes Hollow' development comprising; porch, hall, two stores, dining room, lounge with access to family room beyond (former garage), kitchen, utility section. Principle bedroom with a shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom. Landscaped garden. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £209,950

SEDGLEY, Tipton Road

Spacious, modernised, centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed inter war semi detached of character within level walking distance of the Bullring comprising; porch, hall, dining room with bay (original fireplace), separate lounge, verandah, cellar, upgraded kitchen, utility section and cloaks. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway to a detached 19ft brick garage, secluded garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950

COSELEY, Somerford Way

Superbly presented modern detached property situated in the popular Coseley area and benefitting from Upvc double glazing, gas central heating, and briefly comprising; entrance hallway, guest w/c, living room, kitchen-diner. FOUR BEDROOMS, re-fitted family bathroom,. Garage, garden and drive to front, enclosed rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £184,950

DUDLEY, The Broadway

Fantastically presented traditional, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated semi-detached which has been extended and much improved by the current owner to a high standard. The property briefly comprises; entrance hallway, through lounge, breakfast room, refitted kitchen, utility. THREE BEDROOMS, enclosed rear garden, driveway to front. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £174,950

SEDGLEY, Dormston Drive

Situated within walking distance of Bull Ring; a gas radiator centrally heated, uPVC double glazed detached comprising; hallway, cloaks, 24'5" through living/dining room, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. block paving, garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £160,950

COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill

A 'refreshed' freehold, gas centrally and uPVC double glazed detached bungalow conveniently situated in 'quiet backwater'. Accommodation: entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, LARGE CONSERVATORY, two bedrooms, shower room, extensive parking, brick garage, good size secluded garden. EPC. D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £159,995, NOW £154,950

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WOODSETTON, Bosworth Close, 'The Poplars'

REMARKABLY SPACIOUS! Situated upon CORNER PLOT a stylish, double glazed & gas centrally heated DETACHED comprising; reception hall, cloakroom, living room with bay, separate dining room, kitchen with a fine range of units, utility room. Principal bedroom with fitted units & shower room en suite, three further bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, Double (17'7 x 16'7) garage, professionally landscaped rear garden. EPC D. SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £253,500, NOW £249,950

GORNAL WOOD, Brick Kiln Lane

A conscientiously maintained comparatively spacious gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed detached family home with open aspect to the front enviably situated in favoured district. Accommodation includes spacious reception hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge and uPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, separate dining room, kitchen, walk in utility. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS (two with wardrobes), bathroom, separate shower room, garage, delightful sheltered well tended rear garden. EPC :E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £230,000

COSELEY, Catherine Road, Hurst Hill

ENLARGED semi detached for improvement in popular/convenient district, and offering significant potential. Property comprises 28 ft through entrance vestibule, hallway, kitchen, enlarged 18'3" living/dining room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Integral garage, garden. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

New price — WAS £94,950, NOW £89,950

PENSNETT, Broad Street

A VERY DECEPTIVE MODERN DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED enjoying a DRIVEWAY and GARAGE plus LARGE REAR GARDEN, a superb setting enhancing the SPACIOUS and RECENTLY REDECORATED layout, with THREE GOOD BEDROOMS. EPC D

No upward chain — £148,950

PENSNETT, Chapel Street

This IMPRESSIVE & SUBSTANTIAL, DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Large L-Shaped Sitting Room with Dining Area, SPLENDID BREAKFAST KITCHEN, THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, Family Bathroom, Large Driveway, Substantial Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC C

New price — £139,000

LANESFIELD, Rookery Road

A significantly modernised, ENLARGED, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) and uPVC double glazed semi detached briefly comprising, reception hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room, 13'2" kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy 24'9" garage with block paved driveway and a secluded/level rear garden. EPC:D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £138,000

COSELEY, Havacre Lane

A well appointed, uPVC double glazed, gas centrally heated DETACHED BUNGALOW, situated in the poplar area of Coseley and within walking distance of Coseley train station. This fantastic property benefits from; entrance hallway, TWO BEDROOMS, kitchen, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, driveway and mature garden to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £126,950

LOWER GORNAL, Garden Walk

SPACIOUS, intermediate "Cottage" of character (with rear access) set in quiet backwater within walking distance of the village. The delightful, quaint, well presented, gas centrally heated, and uPVC double glazed accommodation provides; dining room, 16'3" lounge, upgraded kitchen, lobby, utility and bathroom. Two LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, separate toilet. LENGTHY GARDEN with rear access. EPC: E. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £120,000

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Outstanding, EXTENDED, gas centrally heated, double glazed end "starter home" with panoramic distant views briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/snug.Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950

KINGSWINFORD, Bromley Lane

Situated overlooking an attractive green to the fore, this VERY DECEPTIVE, BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED, MID TERRACE FAMILY HOUSE offering a generous, attractively appointed layout, plus a low maintenance garden / OFF ROAD PARKING to the rear. EPC D

£119,950

PENSNETT, Comber Drive

This SPACIOUS & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED, THREE BEDROOM HOME is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN and comprises: Hall, Guests Cloakroom, Modern Kitchen Diner, Sitting Room, THREE GENEROUS BEDROOMS, Well Appointed Family Bathroom, Garage, Lovely Rear Garden. EPC D

New price — £115,000

COSELEY, Lime Street, Hurst Hill

A modernised, gas centrally heated, and either uPVC double or uPVC single glazed semi detached in quiet/convenient 'backwater' within walking distance of so many amenities. Accommodation includes; reception hall, dining room, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), upgraded kitchen, pantry. Three bedrooms (two with wardrobes), upgraded bathroom. Delightful garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £110,000

WOODSETTON, Tipton Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN .Deceptively spacious two bedroom end of terrace benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating comprising; entrance hall, living room, kitchen/diner, Two double bedrooms, family shower room, garden, off road parking to front. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,995

UPPER GORNAL, Clarence Street

Fantastically presented, traditional terraced property situated in the popular location of Upper Gornal and benefitting from gas central heating, living room, dining room, kitchen, re-fitted family bathroom, two bedrooms, spiral staircase leading to loft room, enclosed rear garden, ideal for first-time buyers. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

DUDLEY, Bramble Green, Old Park Farm

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Freehold, uPVC double glazed, part centrally heated SEMI DETACHED offering significant potential set upon established development and briefly including; reception hall. living room, kitchen-diner, pantry, lengthy utility area, store and downstairs wet room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. garden. SEDGLEY OFFICE. EPC: D.

New price — WAS £109,950, NOW £104,950

DUDLEY, Chestnut Avenue

A good sized semi detached family home benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing and briefly comprising; entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner. Master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, ground floor family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden, driveway with ample parking and garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £104,950

LOWER GORNAL, Fiveways Court, Lake Street

BUNGALOW EQUIVALENT?! - Situated in gated development within immediate walking distance of many amenities, a spacious, gas centrally heated, double glazed GROUND FLOOR apartment. Stylish accommodation provides; lengthy hall, store, lounge/dining room, well equipped kitchen (integrated appliances). Two bedrooms (both with fitted units & principal bedroom with shower room en suite), bathroom. Allocated parking, communal grounds. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

PRICE: £94,950

COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive

Conscientiously maintained GROUND FLOOR double glazed flat with allocated & secluded rear garden set at head of cul de sac in a convenient district briefly comprising: entrance hallway, kitchen with cream finish units, lounge, lobby, double bedroom, bathroom. Allocated parking, garden. EPC: D' SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £79,950

www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk

Spacious family semi has plenty of parking

A SPACIOUS semi-detached home on Tipton Road, Dudley, is for sale through Taylors estate agent priced at £189,950.

There is a porch, reception hall, lounge area, dining room with a fireplace, cellar, modern kitchen, utility section and cloakroom. Upstairs are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with a white suite.

To the rear is a spacious enclosed garden with a brick garage and lawn. The front has a large drive and a small lawn.

Visit the website www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk or call 01902 880888.

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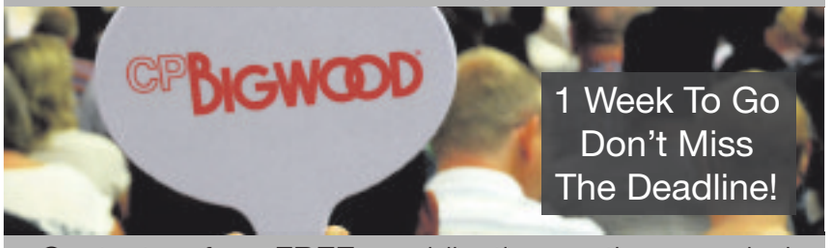

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LOWER GORNAL

Cedarwood Road
* A beautiful SPLIT-LEVE BUNGALOW
* Private spot in quiet cul-de-sac
* Extensive gardens leading o 'The Dingle'
* Flexible and spacious accommodation
* Lounge diner and sitting room
* Kitchen with breakfast bar
* Three DOUBLE bedrooms
* Shower room and bathroom
* VIEWING RECOMMENDED
* EPC - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £279,950

DUDLEY

Attingham Drive
* A beautifully presented DETACHED
* 9 years old & 1 yr NHBC remaining
* Convenient for amenities of Dudley
* Close by to Dudley College
* Accommodation over three storeys
* FIVE bedrooms and THREE bathrooms
* Contemporary & spacious
* Small Rear Garden
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £279,950

DUDLEY

Yarner Close
* A well presented DETACHED
* Sought after Milking Bank address
* Lounge and dining room
* Kitchen and utility room
* FOUR bedrooms
* En-suite and house bathroom
* Garage and driveway
* EPC Rating - C

£259,950

DUDLEY

The Straits
* A well presented Dormer Bungalow
* Approx 6 years old
* Popular 'Straits' development
* TWO bedrooms
* Bathroom and shower room
* Driveway and Garage
* Landscaped rear gardens
* Viewing highly recommended
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £232,950

LOWER GORNAL

Tennyson Road
* A semi-detached in popular location
** Poets corner' of The Straits development
* In need of some modernisation
* Through lounge/diner
* Majority Upvc double glazing
* Detached garage
* Pleasant rear garden
* NO UPWARD CHAIN
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £156,950

DUDLEY

The Straits
* A traditional bay fronted semi-detached
* Located on The Straits Rd in Gornal
* Close by to Gornal Village centre
* THREE bedrooms
* An open plan style kitchen/diner
* CONSERVATORY
* Small garden to the rear
* Upvc double glazed window
* Parking for two cars
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £154,950

DUDLEY

Lawnswood Road
* A well presented semi-detached home
* Quiet cul-de-sac location
* Close by to Ellowes Hall School
* THREE bedrooms
* Open plan style lounge/dining area
* Modern bathroom with separate shower
* Upvc double glazing throughout
* Driveway and garden
* Integral garage
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £144,950

COSELEY

Stretton Place
* A beautifully presented semi-detached
* Quiet corner plot in Woodcross
* Close by to popular local schools
* Refurbished to a high standard
* Open plan dining kitchen
* Utility room and guest wc
* THREE double bedrooms
* Large garden to side and rear
* Ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £129,950

RIPLEY GROVE, UPPER GORNAL

St. James Court
* A ground floor APARTMENT
* Centrally located for Sedgley and Gornal
* Only 5 years old (NHBC Guarantee)
* Open plan modern lounge/kitchen
* TWO bedrooms
* One car parking space
* Communal gardens
* Secure entry system
* Ideal first time buy
* EPC Rating - B

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,950

COSELEY

Ettingshall Road
* A beautifully presented apartment
* First floor accommodation
* TWO bedrooms
* Lounge opening to kitchen
* Approx 10 years old
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £94,950

COSELEY

Bourne Street
*A first floor flat OFFERED FOR SALE
*Refurbished throughout
*ONE bedroom
*Lounge and separate kitchen
*Contemporary bathroom
*Secure gated entry
*Communal parking area
*Ideal investment opportunity
*EPC Rating - D

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £79,950

ROSE STREET, COSELEY

Maple Court
* A first floor flat OFFERED FOR SALE
* Beautifully presented throughout
* ONE bedroom
* Open plan style lounge/kitchen
* Contemporary bathroom
* Secure gated entry
* Communal parking area
* Ideal investment opportunity
* EPC Rating - C

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £59,950

www.rightmove.co.uk www.swinscoes.co.uk www.OnTheMarket.com

Tasteful family house is opposite a popular park

THIS semi-detached property on Norton Road, Stourbridge, is situated opposite Mary Stevens Park. It is for sale through Wakeman Estates at £289,995.

The ground floor has a porch, reception hall, lounge, extended living room with French doors leading to garden, and fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Upstairs are three generous sized bedrooms and a tiled family bathroom with bath and shower over.

The rear garden has patio and lawns and there is a paved driveway and garage at the front.

Visit www.wakeman-online.com or contact 01902 885894.

Traditional home is spacious and improved

THIS spacious traditional mid-terrace property in Moat Road, Oldbury, has been improved.

It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £162,950.

The property is ideal for commuting with Moat Farm Infant School, Bristnall Hall and Oldbury academies are all located within a mile of the property.

It includes four bedrooms, two reception rooms, a spacious dining kitchen with light wood-effect units and a pleasant rear garden.

The first of the reception rooms is bay fronted with period coving and the bathroom is fitted out in contemporary style. There is also a useful cellar providing ample storage space and an entrance hall.

Contact Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the website www.oulsnam.net.

Jon Stanier

01384 77877

Your satisfaction is our future!

KINGSWINFORD
ROKEWOOD CLOSE
This superbly presented, beautifully improved and neatly appointed Modern One Bed Ground floor Flat is delightfully situated at the head of this popular Cul-de-sac and provides spacious well planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time Buyer, single or retired couple. Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, fitted Bathroom with shower, superb low maintenance rear Garden, side Driveway and Garage and lawned front Garden. EPC=C
Offers around £104,950

PENSNETT
TILED HOUSE LANE
FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2015 A well presented 3 Bed Semi-Detached situated in this popular and convenient address providing deceptively spacious accom with GAS CENTRAL HEATING and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZING. Hall, spacious Lounge, large Conservatory, attractively fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Bathroom, 3 well proportioned Bedrooms (one with En-Suite shower) low maintenence rear Garden and foregarden with off road parking. Ideal for Investors or young families. EPC=D
Guide Price £85-£90,000

PENSNETT
CORBYNS CLOSE
This delightfully presented, and extended 3 Bed Detached provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC Double glazed family accom pleasantly situated with distant views to the rear in this popular and very convenient cul-de-sac. Briefly comprises :- Hall, Spacious Lounge with Dining Area, Superb Refitted and extended Breakfast Kitchen, Downs W.C., 3 Good Bedrooms, Attractively Fitted Bathroom, Side Garage, Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with south westerly aspect and driveway to Front. EPC=E
Offers around £179,950

BROCKMOOR
STATION ROAD
This stylishly refurbished 3 Bed End Terrace provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom set over 3 floors and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Spacious Lounge, sep Dining Room, large "L" Shaped refitted Breakfast Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Utility Room, stylish Downs Shower Room, 2 good Bedrooms, Master/Attic Room with "contemporary" refitted Bathroom to the second floor, side garage (older), driveway parking and large rear Garden with potential for BUILDING PLOT or extension (subject to regulations etc). EPC=G
Offers around £124,950

BRIERLEY HILL
TYZACK CLOSE
Most pleasantly situated at the head of a private driveway leading from this popular cul-de-sac, this delightful 2 Bed Semi provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and Upvc DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the young family or First Time buyer and briefly comprises:- Hall, spacious Lounge, stylish REFITTED KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, REFITTED SHOWER ROOM, pleasant well kept lawned rear Garden with private outlook, driveway to the front and additional parking space close by. EPC=C
Offers around £117,950

QUARRY BANK
BIRCH AVENUE
Pleasantly situated on a "corner plot" in this popular address, this attractively presented and improved 3 Bed Semi provides spacious GAS CENTRALLY heated and DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family. Porch, Hall, Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room/ Living Room, Kitchen, Large useful Outhouse, 3 Very Well Proportioned Bedrooms, Restyled Bathroom with shower, Side Garage, Driveway for 2 Cars and Pleasant Lawned Rear Gardens with private outlook. EPC=E
Offers around £111,950

PENSNETT
HODNET DRIVE
Enjoying a wider than average frontage in this popular cul-de-sac this Modern 2 Bed End Townhouse provides deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer or young family.Viewing highly recommended with Hall, Spacious Lounge, attractively refitted Dining Kitchen, 2 well proportioned Bedrooms, fitted Bathroom, Pleasant Lawned Rear and side Gardens and Driveway for 2 cars to the front. EPC=D
Offers around £96,000

PENSNETT
BROMLEY
A well presented Modern 3 Bedroomed Intermediate Townhouse providing deceptively spacious gas centrally heated (not tested) and Upvc double glazed accomodation ideal for the First Time Buyer, young family or Investor and is very conveniently situated opposite Bromley Hill Primary School. Briefly comprises: Hall, spacious Lounge, attractively fitted Dining Kitchen with built-in appliances (not tested), 3 well proportioned Bedrooms, refitted Bathroom with shower, enclosed rear Garden and driveway to front. NO UPWARD CHAIN EPC=D
Purchase Price £90,000

BRIERLEY HILL
ADELAIDE STREET
£750 PAID TOWARDS LEGAL COSTS ! Providing deceptively spacious GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom ideal for the First Time buyer, young family or INVESTOR, this well presented 2 Bed Intermediate Terrace is pleasantly situated in this established and very convenient address and briefly comprises:- Spacious Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Large Refitted Breakfast Kitchen, 2 Excellent Bedrooms, Fitted Bathroom with Shower and enclosed Rear Garden/ Yard. EPC=F
Offers around £79,950

CRADLEY
COLLEY LANE
This unique individually designed One Bedroom Detached 'Cottage' provides thoughtfully planned GAS CENTRALLY HEATED and UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom 'tucked away' in this convenient address and reached by a private driveway. Ideally suited to the Professional Singles or INVESTOR (PREVIOUSLY PRODUCING £450.00 pcm). Hall, Open Plan Lounge with Fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, Bedroom, Shower Room and Blocked Paved Parking to the Front. EPC=D
Offers around £69,950

TIVIDALE
RED LION CLOSE
This delightfully presented, stylishly decorated Modern One Bed Ground Floor Flat provides deceptively spacious UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED accom with electric heating ideal for the First Time Buyer, single person or INVESTOR and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. Includes: Entrance Hall, spacious Lounge opening to Stylish REFITTED KITCHEN with built-in oven and hob, Inner Hall with Useful storage cupboards, Double Bedroom, SUMPTUOUS REFITTED BATHROOM, communally kept Gardens and Garage in separate block close by (requiring attention). EPC=E
Offers around £64,950

NETHERTON
HALESOWEN ROAD
Spacious Attractively Refurbished 2 Bedroomed First Floor Flat, Very Conveniently positioned in the Heart of Netherton ● Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazing ● Hall, Spacious Lounge with separate Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen with built-in oven and hob, 2 Good Sized Bedrooms and Fitted Shower Room. No Pets/DSS/ Smokers. Deposit £600. Available Immediately - FEES APPLY. EPC=TBC
£425 PCM EX

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Big brother, good or bad?

By Alasdair Suttie

Some insurance companies want all cars fitted with a 'black box' to record our driving. Is this a good thing or Big Brother watching?

We hear a lot about black box recorders in aeroplanes, but we will also be hearing a lot more in the near future about these mysterious devices for our cars.

Insurance companies are always looking at ways to reduce the number of claims and payouts they have to deal with. One way to do this is use black box recorders, or telematics to give it the correct name.

Just as with an aeroplane's black box recorder, the ones fitted to cars are able to measure distance, time and location.

This means they can also record speed, though insurers say this would only be taken into account in the event of a collision and drivers breaking the speed limit in normal driving would not be reported to the police.

However, by recording speed, time and location, black boxes can be used to assess the risk factor of a driver. This has been used to encourage young drivers to be more careful, particularly as they are the group most likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision.

Using the hidden and tamper-proof black box to make sure young drivers are not on the road between certain times, usually from late at night till early in the morning, allows the insurer to offer a lower premium.

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in a serious or fatal collision or make an insurance claim as a result of such an incident.

The black box can also measure the driver's style, showing if the driver is heavy on the throttle and brakes or smooth and progressive.

The smoother the driver, the more likely they are to enjoy a lower insurance premium. In many cases, the more careful driver can save up to a third on their insurance cost, as well as being less likely to be involved in a collision.

While some drivers object to their driving being monitored, it's expected that a quarter of all cars on the UK's roads will be fitted with a black box by 2020.

It's already a common practice among company car and van fleets because it lets the fleet manager assess the safety and eco driving skills of drivers in order to reduce running costs.

Drivers with a clean licence and no insurance claims may find a black box policy more expensive than their current insurance premium due to the cost of installing the technology.

However, for high-risk category drivers, such as the young and high mileage business drivers, or those driving in densely populated cities, a black box could help cut their insurance outgoings. For many in these groups, it will be a case of when rather than if they have to adopt this technology in their cars.

A spokesperson for the Association of British Insurers added: "Careful drivers have nothing to worry about from black box technology, whether they opt to have it installed or it is fitted as part of their insurance policy. Only bad driving will be penalised using the black box's information, so it pays to be a considerate, careful driver."

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• Heated windscreen • Bluetooth® connectivity • 16-inch white alloy wheels
• LED daytime running lights • Twin white stripes on bonnet, roof and tailgate
• CD/MP3 CD player/stereo radio and aux-in socket • Cruise control

OUR PRICE ONLY £8995

NEW CORSA LE
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• 17" black alloy wheels • VXR Styling Pack • Sports suspension • Sports pedals
• Sports-style front seats • Leather-covered steering wheel
• Electrically adjustable/heated door mirrors

£169 PER MONTH 0% APR* REPRESENTATIVE

0% APR EXAMPLE: VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LE 3DR*

60 monthly payments	OTR price	Deposit or P/X	Balance	Total amount payable	0%APR REPRESENTATIVE
£169.00	£13,495	£3,355	£10,140	£13,495	

T Wall Garages
High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford, DY6 8XB
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

Dudley Motor Company
Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY
01384 454100
www.dudleymotorco.co.uk

Halesowen Motor House
Dudley Rd, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3NH
0121 503 0001
www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk

VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.2i 90PS Excite with 16" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 62.8 (4.5), Combined: 53.3 (5.3). CO_2 emissions: 124g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Corsa 5 Door Hatchback 1.0i 90PS SE Turbo Stop/Start ecoFLEX with 16" wheels, M6: Urban: 51.4 (5.5), Extra-urban: 72.4 (3.9), Combined: 62.8 (4.5). CO_2 emissions: 106g/km.

Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 30th September 2015. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Offer subject to availability at participating Retailers only. Personal Contract Purchase. *Finance subject to status, Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle, ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions.

Hottest of hot hatches packing a big punch

By Ian Donaldson

YOU know the answer before you ask, but can't help yourself; when will the horsepower race end?

The answer, of course, is never. Or at least not until someone passes a law with a limit in mind.

Until then we'll continue to see cars like the latest Audi RS 3 Sportback, which within its compact and practical shape packs a 2.5 litre, 362bhp punch that will take the car to an astonishing 174mph, if you ask for the artificial speed limit to be switched off.

That costs £2,495 as part of an upgrade package. With the restrictor in place you will have to make do with a mere 155mph, which ought to be enough for anyone, and only reachable (lawfully and moderately safely, anyway) on a derestricted German motorway at the crack of a summer's dawn.

More useful in everyday performance terms is the time this well equipped tarmac terroriser takes to hit 62mph – the yardstick by which every car is measured, from shopping hatch to ground-pawing Lamborghini.

Well, this Audi takes 4.3 seconds. You couldn't pour a cup of coffee in that time, let alone look round to see if the Lambo is keeping up. This is a mind bendingly fast car, with the most powerful five-cylinder production engine in Audi RS history (and that layout has a lot of powerful history to call on).

This second generation A3 RS is, says its maker, the most powerful compact hatchback you can buy. It also costs more than a couple of other speedy Germans, in the shape of the VW Golf R (£32,890 in auto form) and the auto-only Mercedes-Benz A45 AMG (£38,195).

But crucially in the power race, both are less powerful than the Audi and both accelerate a little more slowly. We're talking blinks of eyes here, but in the rarified world of the hottest of hot hatches, fractions matter.

Engineering

There can be little room for complaint about the Audi's equipment count. Apart from the serious engineering changes made to keep the car safe, reliable and (hopefully fun to drive) you will find big alloy wheels set in a body with flared wings, rear spoiler and touches of gloss black and matt aluminium to give visual clues to all that power.

Inside, there are gorgeous looking sports front seats covered in soft grey leather, alloy pedals, black faced instruments with red needles – even a lap timer for those daring adventures on the local race track. No satellite navigation as standard though, which looks mean at this price. A basic version is £495.

The power from the five-cylinder engine reaches the ground through Audi's quattro all-wheel drive system and an automatic seven speed dual-clutch gearbox, without the option of a DIY manual gear change.

Fancy disc brakes, more direct steering and specially adapted suspension are proof that Audi went much more than skin deep to produce this fire breather. Was it worth the effort, you now ask?

Well, yes. Even on badly pockmarked British roads the car gets a serious move on without feeling over firm, and is surprisingly compliant in the firm, dynamic mode of the optional (£995) magnetic ride and sports suspension.

On the short but so demanding twists of the Shelsey Walsh hill climb course, where Audi let us loose, it clung like a leech and hit 90mph at the end – on a track little wider than the car.

Out on the road the theoretical 34.9mpg fuel consumption became a real life 26mpg.

There is even a practical side to this car, with a big boot and room for two big adults in the rear, where the ride goes downhill a bit and coarsely surfaced roads set up a racket.

Up front, and especially at the wheel as the sports exhausts barks and pops in a racetrack way, your thoughts are on the road ahead, not the passenger sitting behind.

TESTED

Audi RS 3 Sportback

Engine: 362bhp petrol

Warranty: Three years, 60,000 miles

Economy: The Audi RS 3 Sportback can do 34.9mpg

Insurance: TBC

Price: £39,995

COME AND GET A SUPER, SUMMER HOLIDAY DEAL AT DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY

CARS OF THE WEEK

2011/11 MERCEDES E CLASS SE
AUTO CDTI, SILVER, 38000 MILES
£14995

2008/08 VAUXHALL CORSA VXR TURBO
RED, ONLY 20,000 MILES
£8495

		WAS	NOW
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXI AC CDTi 5 door, White, 59,541 miles		£7495
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE, 3 door, Red, 39,331 miles		£5650
2010/59	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 VXR COUPE Red, 25,600 miles		£9995
2014/64	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, Red, Only 1,600 miles		£9995
2010/60	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.8 V6 TURBO ELITE AUTOMATIC 5 door Hatch, Black, 58,000 miles.		£9995
2013/13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ENERGY AC 3 door, White, only 9,400 miles		£7495
2014/64	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 GTC SRi CDTi 3 door, Black, Only 8,729 miles		£14,995
2011/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Silver, 23,500 miles		£6495
2010/60	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA EXCLUSIV NAV 2.0 5 door, Blue, 63,910 miles		£7495
2010/10	VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 1.4 5 door, Silver, Only 26,010 miles		£5490
2007/07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 90PS DESIGN 5 door Hatch, Purple, 42,990 miles		£4995
2009/59	KIA CARENS 2.0 GS AUTOMATIC Blue, 26,000 miles		£4695
2014/14	VAUXHALL ADAM SLAM HATCH 1.2 70PS 3 door, Green, 8,614miles		£10995
2012/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI AC 5 door, Grey, 9,074miles		£6995
2009/09	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 ACENTA Automatic, Metallic Gold, 27,000miles		£5695
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE 1.6 Silver, 47,818 miles		£7350+VAT
2005/55	MINI 1.6 COOPER 3door, Silver, 28,000miles		£5495
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRAVAN SPORTIVE CDTI Silver, 48,219miles		£7350+VAT
2011/11	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi SAT NAV 160PS CDTi Grey, 37,340miles		£8995
2010/60	CHEVROLET CRUZE 1.6 LS 4 door. Saloon, Silver, 37314 miles		£5495
2015/15	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 T 3 door, Latest Model and Spec		From £9999
2006/06	LEXUS IS 250 SPORT 2.5 4 door Grey, 40, 161 miles		£6250
2010/60	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi CDTi 160ps Black, 37,000 miles		£9495
2007/57	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 TWINTOP CABRIOLET DESIGN Black, 53,560 miles		£4995
2011/11	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXi AC 3door, Black, 25,000 miles		£6495
2006/06	MAZDA RX-8 EVOLVE 2.6 COUPE Red, 46,000 miles		£3995
2012/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3door, Yellow, 30,000 miles		£6995
2011/11	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 SRi NAV 160 ps CDTi Grey, 35,000 miles		£8995
2014/14	VAUXHALL CASCADA CONVERTIBLE 2.0 DIESEL 165PS ELITE Grey, 10,808 miles		£21,450
2014/14	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.7 SPORT CDTi ECOFLEX 3 door, Red, 17,090miles		£11,995
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE AC CDTi ECO 3 door, White, 26,000miles		£6495
2013/63	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SPORT GTC Red, 17,000 miles		£9995
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA CDTi EXCLUSIV Choice of colours and mileages		From £14,750
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA HATCH 1.7 CDTi 130 TECH LINE 5 door, White, 17,645miles		£14995
2014/64	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.4 16V TURBO SRi 5 door, Grey, 12, 211 miles		£13995
2007/07	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN 5 door, Silver, 30,721 miles		£4850

		WAS	NOW
2013/62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7CDTi 125 EXCLUSIV ECOFLEX 5 door, Asteroid Grey, 19,263miles		£9995
2012/62	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 SRI CDTI S/S SPORTS TOURER Macadamia, 15,015miles		£10695
2011/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCLUSIV 5 door, Silver, 19285 miles	£7995	NOW £7795
2011/61	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRi NAV 2.0 CDTi 5 door, Hatchback, Black, 36842 miles	£9495	NOW £9350
2014/63	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.4 3 door, White, 15089 miles	£9995	NOW £9750
2013/13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LTD EDITION White, 3 door, 8000 miles	£8995	NOW £8775
2010/60	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Black, 39,281 miles	£6495	NOW £6345
2008/08	HONDA CIVIC 1.8 TYPE-S 3 door, Silver, 49,000 miles	£5995	NOW £5795
2011/61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 EXCITE 5 door, Grey, 30010 miles	£7995	NOW £7695
2011/11	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Red, 9810 miles	£7495	NOW £7350
2008/58	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3 door, Blue, 53000 miles	£4995	NOW £4795
2012/61	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi 3 door, Silver, 12010 miles	£6995	NOW £6795
2014/14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 SRi Petrol Grey, 5 door	£12,995	NOW £12,850
2011/61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0 TOURER SRi CDTi AUTOMATIC Black, 12000 miles	£11,995	NOW £11,845
2006/56	TOYOTA AVENSIS VVTi 5 door, Silver, 27555 miles	£5495	NOW £5350
2013/13	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION 3 door, White, 10642 miles	£8495	NOW £8245
2005/05	MINI 1.6 COOPER Black, 50000 miles	£5995	NOW £5850
2012/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE Silver, 14400 miles	£9595	NOW £9395
2013/13	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 ENERGY Blue, 5 door, 6953 miles	£10,250	NOW £9995
2010/59	HYUNDAI I10 CLASSIC Blue, 29,000 miles	£4995	NOW £4750
2012/62	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi Grey, 3 door, 21000 miles	£6995	NOW £6850
2012/12	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SE Silver, 5 door, 26000 miles	£9495	NOW £9275
2012/12	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 ACTIVE AC, White, 3 door, 21000 miles	£7495	NOW £7275
2014/14	VAUXHALL VIVARO 2.0 CDTi (115PS) Sportive Van 2.9t Euro 5 LWB, Diesel, White, Delivery miles		£13,995+VAT
2014/14	VAUXHALL VIVARO 1.6 SWB Diesel, New Shape/New Model, Silver, Delivery miles		£14,995+VAT
2014/14	VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6 Petrol, choice of colours		From £13,495
2014/64	VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 5 door, Phantom Grey, Only 10 miles, Choice	£11,495	NOW £11,250
2013/13	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.2 Red, 17000 miles	£8495	NOW £7995
2013/13	VAUXHALL ADAM JAM 1.2 Red, 12000 miles	£8495	NOW £7995
2012/62	VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 5 door, Yellow, 13000 miles	£8995	NOW £7995
2006/06	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i 16V DESIGN Silver, 3 door, 53102 miles		£4995
2007/57	SUBARU IMPREZA 1.5 R 5 door, Grey, 23,958 miles		£4495
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Dudley Chronicle Thursday, July 30, 2015

Heritage card is big hit

By John Griffiths

Motorcycles, as a breed, are much more subject to personal preferences than cars and like many riders I'd ideally like a stable of various types in the garage, to bring out depending on my mood that day.

One of them would no doubt be a Triumph Bonneville, the modern incarnation of a legendary machine harking back to the days when British bikes ruled the world.

The latest Bonnie to roll out of the Triumph works at Hinckley in Leicestershire. looks, sounds and feels true to its illustrious ancestors. It's been updated and improved in many ways since the legendary name was revived in 2001 but its retro styling, a homage to the 1959 original, remains instantly recognisable.

Growing up in the 1960s the Bonnie was a young boy's dream, and continued as an object of desire long after most of Britain's motorcycle industry had been devastated by a wave of Japanese imports.

Since its revival 14 years ago by the 'new' Triumph Motorcycle Company it has survived in a market where models are frequently launched and replaced in little more than a year.

It still makes a significant contribution to the 50,000-plus machines a year leaving the factory gates, with the flagship T100, Thruxton cafe racer and scrambler variants adding to the standard machine's appeal.

Doubtless the nostalgia factor among bikers of a certain age is a major contributory factor to the Bonneville's longevity but there's a lot more to it than that. Don't be fooled by that retro-styling: this is a thoroughly modern bike with computer-controlled fuel injection and disc brakes front and rear.

It's competitively priced (from £6,999) and relatively light and easy to handle, with adequate power for the experienced rider to have fun but not so much as to scare those with fewer miles under their belts. It makes an ideal 'first big bike'.

It also has a low 740mm seat height and a 'one size fits all' configuration which allows even those a bit shorter in the leg to feel secure and comfortable.

The engine is perhaps the perfect example of Triumph's 'old meets new' Bonneville design philosophy.

It's a traditional air-cooled twin (as opposed to the triple powering Triumph's latest adventure and sports models) and appears to have old-fashioned carburettors but in fact this is a specially forged housing for the throttle bodies and fuel injection system. Similarly it appears to have a pushrod tube at the front of the engine, even though it actually has double overhead cams.

The 865cc unit has 68PS of power and 68Nm of torque, much of it at lower revs so that power delivery is smooth and predictable across the range. It gives the Bonnie an easy-going, almost lazy nature akin to a cruiser, but with the ability to pick up its heels and go when circumstances dictate.

The bike gives the impression of being happy to run all day at motorway speeds, although even if it was legal you wouldn't want to go much faster since as the speed mounts so does the wind pressure on the rider. You could fit a screen, I suppose, but personally there's plenty of performance for British roads and I wouldn't want to spoil those classic good looks.

'The latest Bonnie to roll out of the Triumph works at Hinckley, looks, sounds and feels true to its illustrious ancestors.'

That has to be a big part of the Bonnie's appeal, along with features such as the peashooter exhaust, two chromed shocks at the rear, forged aluminium wheels and the shiny headlight housing.

The long, flat double seat fitted as standard means taller riders can easily shuffle about to find their most comfortable position, but the test bike came with the optional solo seat: large, beautifully shaped and comfortable enough to rival most big cruisers.

The Bonnie is no heavyweight at 225kgs (wet), and most of that is lower down than many rivals which contributes to its inherent stability, The low height, wide, straightish bars, well-damped steering and smooth throttle operation add to the Bonnie's natural balance and make it confidence-inspiring for for slow-speed riding in traffic. On the open road, handling through the twisty bits is neutral and assured.

There's a single 310mm disc at the front and a 255mm disc at the rear, providing plenty of braking power with sensitivity and 'feel' for the rider.

If Triumph wants to play the heritage card it's hard to think how they could have created a better modern interpretation of a true British classic.

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4 Pets & Animals

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guns & dogs

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5 Business & Farming

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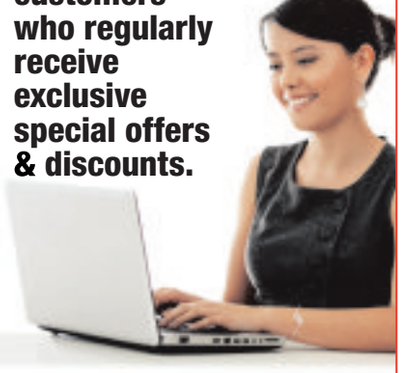

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8 Motoring

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07702 454630.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

DOROTHY HILDA BILLINGHAM (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 19 Morville Road Netherton Dudley West Midlands DY2 9HR, who died on 29/06/2015, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 02/10/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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LICENSING ACT 2003

Notice of application for a *Premises Licence (Section 17 of the Act)/*Club Premises Certificate (Section 71 of the Act).

Name of applicant or club: FOUR BROTHERS & FRIENDS LTD.

Address of premises or club: THE OLD COACH AND HORSES, 169 STOURBRIDGE ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 2EQ.

Statement of Relevant Licensable Activities or Relevant Qualifying Club Activities which it is proposed will be carried on or from the premises:

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Recorded Music Sun-Thurs
12:00 - 23.:00; Fri - Sat 12:00 - 00:00

Dance Mon-Sun 12:00 - 23:00

Anything Similar Mon-Sun
12:00 - 00.:00

Supply of Alcohol Sun-Thurs
12:00 - 00.:00; Fri & Sat 12:00 - 01:00

Plus 1 extra hour for Bank Holidays etc.

The full application can be inspected by contacting the Licensing Section (see below) between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm (Monday to Friday except public holidays). An on-line summary of the application can be viewed on www.dudley.gov.uk

Any representations by a Responsible Authority or Interested Party must be made in writing between 24/7/15 and 20/8/15 to Assistant Director of Law & Governance, Licensing Services, Unit 1 Hurst Business Park, Narrowboat Way, Brierley Hill DY5 1UF.

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10 Personals

personal

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general

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68YR old widow, attractive, seeks sincere, N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773**

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369**

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

CAROL 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683**

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50- 55 with salt and pepper hair and GSOH. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4435776**

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193**

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JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for non complicated fun times. Attractive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089**

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EMMA, 43, easygoing female looking to broaden her horizons, WLTM similar male for romantic liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418009**

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTM man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751**

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLTM single dad aged 39 to 45. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299**

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012**

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTM male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787**

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421**

Men seeking women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

PAUL 50yrs, Birmingham, with own house and own car, I have a good sense of humour and I like going out, I'm looking for the right girl for friendship/relationship. Call me when you can. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418465**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman would like to meet a lady, any age/race for discreet daytime fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4853198**

TALL, dark, attractive guy, 49, seeks attractive, younger female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 316752**

COLIN 61, lorry driver, 5'10", blue eyes, kind hearted, romantic, hobbies include growing fuchsia's for showing and I have a vintage tractor that I play with from time to time. Looking for similar who's up for a lot of fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418463**

NEIL 51, GSOH, WLTM, a caring, sensitive lady for romantic nights and possible LTR, 32-56. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4670827**

SINGLE male, likes camping, walking, cycling, dogs, sightseeing, WLTM n/s healthy female for companionship. West Midlands safari park area. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4845428**

VERY fit 5'8 sporty attractive, pro Black male seeks lady 35-58, any nationality for tactile LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4844360**

COLIN 48, seeks large cuddly lady 47-56 for LTR/Romance. Single Mums welcome. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4730876**

MALE, 59, discreet, fit body, seeks lady for no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4823076**

JOHN 26, GSOH, likes the outdoors, wine and good food, medium athletic build, WLTM older woman for fun and friendship. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4488256**

LONELY male, 57, seeks Chinese/Jamaican/Romanian male/female for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418245**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

RICHARD 44, single, happy go lucky, likes pubs, clubs, socialising, seeking female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416995**

MALE, 48, looking for a 30-45 yr old female who has an interest in countryside pursuits. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4829696**

HAPPY go lucky male, 30 something, attractive and very social would like to meet bubbly kind lady for see what happens. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828596**

ATTRACTIVE widower seeks lady 55-70 for companionship and more. Car owner. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4828789**

ANDY 40, own home, likes keep fit, cooking, nights in/out, seeks special female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309103**

SINGLE male non smoker, looking for soul mate, laid back guy who likes outdoors, walking my dog and occasional mountain biking. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4763550**

DAVE 55, seeks tiny broadminded slim, small breasted, long hair blonde/ginger female for adult fun/LTR. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4757127**

CUDDLY 50 year old male, hard working, seeks genuine woman for days and nights out and no strings fun. **Text only to Mailbox No: 4437594**

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Baggies are most watched TV team in the borough

ARMCHAIR pundits in Dudley are more like to watch an Albion match on TV than any other Premier League team, a study has claimed.

Research carried out by broadcaster Sky Sports discovered more live Baggies games were watched in the borough than any other team in the top flight.

And while that might not sound the most surprising news, considering Dudley's proximity to The Hawthorns, Albion were one of only eight clubs to maintain a stronghold out of 118 postcode regions included in the study.

Elsewhere in the Black Country and the Midlands, Manchester United ruled the roost, emerging as the most watched club in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall.

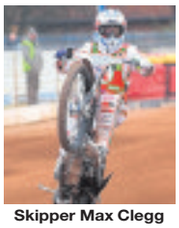
The broadcaster analysed the viewing habits of 500,000 viewers across the country to find out which Premier League team had been watched live three or more times the most often.

United led the way in 49 regions with Arsenal the most popular in 33 and Liverpool next on 21.

Chelsea, Newcastle, Albion, Swansea and Leicester could also boast their own regional strongholds, with the latter somewhat bizarrely emerging as the most-watched team by viewers in the Outer Hebrides.

Sky Sports' head of sports and news research Matthew Roberts said: "Arsenal really do dominate the south east and several areas in Scotland enjoy watching Chelsea more than any other Premier League team, while Manchester United and Liverpool really do enjoy support across the UK."

Heathens looking for revenge



Skipper Max Clegg

HEATHENS skipper Max Clegg insists his side are capable of gaining revenge on Birmingham at Perry Barr next Wednesday.

Cradley go into the 'away' National League clash with their track sharing rivals on the back of a home defeat at their hands in May.

Having slipped 15 points behind Birmingham in the title race at the time of going to print, Clegg knows nothing less than a win will do as they aim to keep their hopes of a third successive National League triumph alive.

However, he is adamant they have what it takes to pull off a dramatic surge to the top of the table - starting with a victory on Wednesday.

"It's going to be tough for us, Birmingham have been going well, but we know we can beat them," Clegg said.

"They are quite a long way ahead of us in the league so if we are going to win the title we know we need to get a good result.

"We just need everyone to focus and be on top of their game.

"We had a tough spell but we've had two really good wins against Stoke and Buxton which has given us confidence.

"It wasn't just the fact we won, it's that we won pretty convincingly and looked like we were back riding at our best, like we were at the start of the season.

"A lot of us have been winning races and feeling confident, so we just need to do the same again and I think we can come out on top.

"It's going to be a close meeting, but if we can get the win then it puts the pressure on them and puts us right back in it, so we are really desperate to do well.

Children get in free and the action starts at 7.30and Cradley season tickets do apply.

Edwards relishing his role as team elder

WOLVES' most senior player Dave Edwards is relishing being the elder statesman of the club – aged just 29.

The departures of Kevin Doyle, Sam Ricketts and Tomasz Kuszczak have suddenly made Shrewsbury-born Edwards a veteran in Wolves terms.

Boss Kenny Jackett has long extolled the virtues of youth and vitality in his squad and seems to be taking that to new extremes with Wolves' average age rapidly decreasing.

And Edwards, who recently stated his desire to extend a contract that runs out next summer, welcomed his new situation.

"I'm the oldest player in the squad at 29, which seems bizarre – but I do enjoy it, I relish that role," he said.

"I'm maturing as a player and I feel my best years will be the next three or four of my career.

"Even though I missed a bit of football where I was perhaps only playing 15-20 games a season through injuries and selection, I've played over 400 games now.

"I feel like those years will prolong my career.

"I've found a formula that keeps me fit and I'm being professional in terms of how I handle myself off the pitch.

"It's a huge club and if I'm considered one of the leaders it's amazing for me."

Edwards wore the captain's armband during Wolves' recent friendly victory over FC Chambly in France.

"And he backed the club to get it right in the transfer market this summer as Wolves look to mount a Premier League promotion push."

Wolves side need to find the hunger

Shrewsbury 1 Wolves 1

WOLVES don't start their league campaign until Saturday week. And on this showing they need all the preparation time they can get.

A pre-season friendly, yes, but Wolves were thoroughly uninspiring against their Shropshire neighbours.

In the words of their head coach they lacked desire and hunger. They were also lucky not to lose.

Results matter little in pre-season of course but it will be the insipid performance that has Wolves fans worried.

Add to that a continued lack of a new striker and/or a Bakary Sako replacement, plus the ongoing Kevin McDonald contract situation and all is not well in WV1 right now. Wolves supporters will stomach the imminent departure of Michael Jacobs, who barely featured last season, but if quality players don't come in and the season begins badly then the atmosphere will soon darken.

All this can soon be remedied and there will be no alarm bells sounding behind the scenes at Molineux, far from it.

Motivated

But if Wolves want to hit the ground running against Blackburn on August 8 then the next 12 days are very important.

Kenny Jackett warned beforehand that Shrewsbury would be motivated – and that Wolves needed to be equal to that – but the players were strangely subdued.

Micky Mellon's newly-promoted League One side began on the front foot and nearly scored inside 30 seconds, with former Willenhall Town striker Tyrone Barnett firing into the side netting.

Shrewsbury looked sharp in the opening stages but it was Wolves who took an early lead. McDonald, back in the XI after missing the Burton win due to his contract saga, was central to most of Wolves' first half play and he sent a perfect floating cross onto the had of Nouha Dicko, who obliged with his second 10th minute goal in as many games.

Barnett drove across goal and Mat Sadler volleyed inches over, before the hosts scored a deserved equaliser with Barnett sending a Liam Lawrence corner past Ikeme.

County champions book finals spot

Himley Under-15 Boys are bidding for national glory

HIMLEY UNDER-15 BOYS have battled their way through to the group finals of the ECB National Championships.

The Staffordshire County Cup champions booked their place at the penultimate stage of the competition, which was due to take place on Wednesday at Leamington Cricket Club, with a convincing 85-run victory against Bridgnorth.

Himley had won the toss and batted first and went on to score122 all out in their 20 overs.

Bridgnorth struggled to cope with what turned out to be an excellent Himley bowling attack and their run chase faded under heavy artillery from the Staffordshire side.

They were eventually taken out by the Himley bowlers for 37 runs in the 17th over.

Himley captain Chad Brandrick said: "It was a great victory and fantastic team performance. Although we were a little disappointed with our batting performance, our fielding and bowling skills were exemplary on the night.

"We are all looking forward to the finals and hopefully we give a good account of ourselves and come out on top on the day."

Jordan took 10 seconds to choose Villa

JORDAN Ayew took just 10 seconds to decide his transfer from Lorient to Villa was the right thing to do.

The 23-year-old has put pen to paper on a five-year deal after the two clubs agreed an undisclosed fee., thought to be in the region of £9million

Ayew scored 13 goals in the French top flight last season. He has also won 28 international caps for Ghana, scoring eight times.

"I'm the happiest man in the world – it's one of my greatest days in football," he said.

"My dream was to play for a big team in England.

"When I spoke to Tim Sherwood I knew this was the place for me. It took 10 seconds to work out he was the right coach and Aston Villa the right team for me."

Changes to fixtures for Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE FC have arranged for their home midweek fixtures this season to be played on Monday evenings. Given the number of other games that are played on Tuesday eveningsthe Glassboys felt that it would be worth trying a change of night for midweek matches.

The games affected are:

Stourbridge v Nantwich Town (changes from August 18 to 17); Stourbridge v Barwell (changes from September 8 to 7); Stourbridge v Grantham Town (changes from September 29 to 28); Stourbridge v Sutton Coldfield Town (changes from October 13 to 12); Stourbridge v Ilkeston (changes from October 20 to 19)

Any midweek home Cup fixtures will also be played on Monday evenings.

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Impressive dedication of players

A DUDLEY primary school's cricket coach has said how impressed he is by the dedication of his cup-winning team.

Milking Bank Primary School's Under-11 girls returned home with a trophy after triumphing at the South West Regional Kwik Cricket Finals which were staged in Bristol.

The school team won all four of their matches which meant they were able to triumph at the tournament, which was held at Clifton College.

When asked what had been the key factor in his team's success, coach Mr Matt Farmer said: "It has been down to their commitment.

"The dedication shown by the kids has been very impressive.

"They have trained at break times, at lunch times and they are always willing to learn and to do their best," added coach Farmer.

The competition, which featured 13 invited teams from all over the country, began with a series of qualifying group matches.

Milking Bank got their campaign off to the ideal start by winning both of their matches before defeating New Forest from Hampshire in the semi-finals and then heading to the final.

The match came down to them against Willowbank from Somerset with Milking Bank then scoring a decisive victory.

Team captain Isabel Llabres-Diaz made 32 as Milking Bank scored 52-1 from their innings.

Miriam Mahmood took the first Willowbank wicket with the first ball of their opponents' innings as they bowled out their opponents for just 37 to claim the trophy.

This latest success adds to a growing trophy collection for the school, which also won the Midlands title last year.

Jackett demands more passion from his players

WOLVES boss Kenny Jackett has demanded improvement from his side – after slamming them for showing no hunger or desire in their pre-season draw at Shrewsbury.

Jackett's team laboured to a 1-1 draw with Nouha Dicko's early opener cancelled out by Tyrone Barnett.

And with just two pre-season games to go – starting against Villa at Molineux tomorrow – Wolves do not have long to get into shape before the league season starts at Blackburn on August 8.

"I was disappointed in that lack of hunger and desire as I was last week and we need to improve," Jackett said.

"Overall, in the last two games against Burton and Shrewsbury, we have been fortunate to win one and draw one.

"We understand it is not necessarily about results at this stage."

Wolves fans have voiced frustration over a lack of first team signings.

Jackett said he understood those concerns and was keen to ensure the squad has enough quality come August 8.

● Hunger – inside

Morgan gives thanks for help to race

Morgan Evans, aged 10

Motocross

A YOUNG motocross star from Himley has helped Great Britain finish second in the World Junior Championships in Spain.

Morgan Evans, aged10, finished 26th in his category on his international debut at the El Molar track, near Madrid, to help Team GB finish on the podium after three days of intense competition.

Evans was called up to the national squad last month but his dream quickly came under threat when his family realised they would have to find more than £1,000 at short notice to cover the cost of travel and accommodation.

Determined not to miss out, Evans started an online campaign on the site Gofundme.com which raised almost £1,000 for him. Evans posted a thank you on the web page following the trip which reads: "My dream came true.

"Thank you to everyone for helping me get to the World Motocross Championships. I came 26th overall and Team GB came second overall in the World.

"It was an experience I will never forget. Thank you."

And his delighted mother Suzanne Evans added: "We would like to thank everyone that helped fund the trip of a lifetime for Morgan.

"He rode really well and competed against world-class riders to finish 26th in the world. It is such a tremendous achievement to have been given this opportunity at 10 years old.

"Team GB came second overall which was amazing."

ALBION MUST SWELL RANKS

Swindon 1 Albion 4

ALBION boss Tony Pulis knows his team need more quality and quantity within their ranks ahead of the new Premier League season.

And Saturday's pre-season friendly at League One Swindon Town unfortunately further emphasised that harsh reality despite their emphatic 4-1 victory.

A James Morrison brace and further strikes from Victor Anichebe and Stephane Sessegnon gave the travelling Baggies fans plenty to cheer. And their team were always one step ahead of their lower-league opponents, albeit in a very competitive game.

But the sight of defender Gareth McAuley limping off just before half time, having picked up a calf strain, was the last thing Pulis and his small squad needed with the big kick-off now just two weeks away.

Pulis' options for his side's first friendly on UK soil following their recent US tour had already been reduced by a thigh injury to fellow stopper Craig Dawson which ruled him out of Saturday's game.

Injury

The Albion chief was adamant that Dawson will be fit for their Premier League opener against Manchester City, and there is no suggestion yet that McAuley's injury is any more serious.

But with just one summer signing – James McClean – made so far, those injuries will only increase the clamour among the fans for more new recruits before August 10.

Fortunately Albion's squad already contains plenty of quality to enhance, and they were worthy winners against a well-drilled Swindon side in a sometimes fiery game which contained some bruising challenges. McClean reacted angrily to one such challenge in the first half, from Nathan Byrne, just a few minutes after dishing out an uncompromising tackle of his own on Kevin Stewart, which also drew an angry reaction. Manager Tony Pulis admitted it had been a poor challenge by his player.

Runners take on 24-hour trial

The runners from Dudley Kingswinford running club who took part in the 24-hour thunder run

Athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club took on the Thunder Run, a 24-hour relay race in Catton Park, Derbyshire.

The race started at midday on Saturday and finished at midday on Sunday, with DK's three teams of eight runners covering as many six-mile laps as they could.

The 24 runners were spread across three teams.

By noon on Sunday the A team of Matt Biggs, Simon Hughes, Dave Norman, Graham Wildgoose, James Wright, Lorna Hulme, Mark Judge and Richard Tonks had covered 32 laps and a total mileage of 192 miles to finish eighth.

The B Team of Helen Tromans, Rebecca Warren, Andy Morrison, Kathryn Sneyd, Steve Wood, Sarah Cox, Sarah Krivosic and Lauz Hope had completed 25 laps, a total of 150 miles and finished 69th and the C team of Pete Krivosic, Nessa Morrison, Sam Hemming, John Gould, Gemma Wright, Helen Williamson, Suzi Geraghty and Lisa Newell had placed 207th out of 229 teams covering a distance of 120 miles from their 20 laps, giving a total mileage for the club of 462 miles covered by DK athletes.

Elsewhere Jacqui Elson Whitaker competed in the North Wales Half Marathon, the course squeezed in between the Snowdonia mountain range and the sea near Conwy, finishing in 2.01.16 in 193rd place and taking 4th in her age group.

And competing in her own endurance event Sally McConville took part in the Snowdon Trail Marathon finishing in 7.29.30.

Pulis wants to bring in new blood

ALBION boss Tony Pulis says fans and players alike expect new signings ahead of the new Premier League season.

And the Hawthorns chief is determined to add to his ranks in the remaining two weeks before his team's top flight curtain-raiser against Manchester City on August 10.

So far Albion have made just one summer capture, bringing in midfielder James McClean from Wigan Athletic.

Several more names have been linked with a move to the Hawthorns since then but no further captures have been made, and Pulis acknowledges that it is not just supporters who will expect to see new faces coming through the doors in the coming days.

He said: "We need to bring players in. I think the dressing room is waiting for players to come in. But we are working hard behind the scenes.

"There is a whole host of players out there, but it is not about just signing any players. It is about signing good players."

Pulis' second summer capture of the season could well be former Arsenal midfielder Abou Diaby.

The Albion head coach said: "We've made him an offer. Whether he accepts that and the ethos of the football club we'll wait and see."

Pulis acknowledged that his team needs to improve in all areas, especially up front.

And the boss defended new-boy McClean following a late tackle in the first half of the game at the County Ground, saying: "It was a poor challenge, I don't think McClean meant it. It was a forward tackling back, it was mis-timed and it just went from there."It was a tough game. The way Swindon play they make you chase the ball, it was warm and the pitch got sticky as the game went on"

Glassboys sign up trialist Hayward

STOURBRIDGE have completed the signing of trialist Nathan Hayward.

The 24-year-old midfielder has played for Kidderminster Harriers and Redditch United in previous seasons.

He played in the Glassboys' opening two friendlies against AFC Bridgnorth and Bewdley Town but missed last Saturday's Worcestershire Senior Cup quarter-final against Reddicth United.

He is the second trialist to have been offered a deal by boss Gary Hackett after forward Jamie Insall was confirmed earlier this week.

Insall scored the winner against Bridgnorth.

★★★

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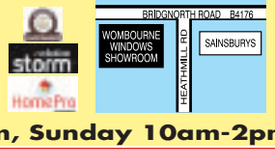
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